



MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

The Independent Farm, Home and Market Weekly, for Michigan Business Farmers

Vol. V - No. 3

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1917.

\$1 PER YEAR, - No Premiums. Free List or Clubbing Offers

FROST CUTS POTATO YIELD

Practically Every Potato Growing State Hit Hard by Late Blight, Black Rot and Killing Frosts of September 9, 10 and 11.

On the first day of August the government issued a crop report forecasting a total yield of 451,716,000 bushels of potatoes, as compared with a yield of 285,437,000 bushels in 1916. In spite of a late spring in practically all of the potato growing sections, delaying the planting from two to four weeks, the ideal weather of July enabled the crop to partly "catch up," and as a result on the above date the largest crop in the history of the country was promised.

But it was altogether too early to prophesy with any degree of accuracy what the crop would be. To yield 450,000,000 bushels it was necessary that the crop have good growing weather, free from blight, droughts, excessive rains, and an early frost. Yet, the forecast of the government was sufficient to put a lot of growers on the anxious seat and furnish the buyers with all sorts of "bearish" material to keep the market down.

But those who have watched the national crop conditions closely have not been frightened by either government reports or speculators' "forecasts." There were certain salient facts that had to be reckoned with, of which the government made no mention.

In the first place, the huge acreage of 3,550,000 acres was planted with the poorest seed ever used in growing a potato crop in the United States. Thousands of deluded farmers planted "seed-ends," thousands more hickory-size potatoes, while probably a third of the growers planted seed of questionable quality. Add to these handicaps the backwardness of the planting season and you have a situation which ought to "stump" the nerviest prognosticator ever born.

But it apparently didn't "stump" the government, which for some reason or other forecasted a production based on a yield of 130 bushels to the acre, a record that has never yet been attained by the United States. In fact, up to 1912, the highest average yield of potatoes in this country was 93 bushels, or a total yield from 3,550,000 acres of approximately 330,000,000.

Now, what has happened? Since August 1st the potato sections have been visited by all kinds of weather calamities. The first reports of a damaged crop came from far-off Washington. As late as September 10th the news comes out of Washington and Northern Idaho that no rain has fallen for 74 days. Do we wonder any longer that Washington's promised

BEAN PRICES ARE STILL IN THE DARK

That the bean jobbers are not altogether satisfied with the price of \$7.35 per bushel which the Government has fixed as the price it will pay for beans for the army and navy, is evidenced by the departure of Mr. W. J. Orr, president of the Bean Jobbers' Association, for Washington last week to register a protest. When consulted by the government as to the price which ought to prevail, Mr. Orr recommended \$7.80 a bushel. Below is the copy of a letter written by MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING to Mr. Orr, together with his reply:

Our Letter to Mr. Orr:

During our telephone conversation of last week you mentioned that any producer of beans could sell to the government providing they could comply with the governmental specifications. I am writing to ask if it is not possible for us to get a copy of these specifications for publication, as this is a matter in which our readers will be very greatly interested. I would like also to know what, in your opinion the effect that the price the government sets upon its own purchases of beans will have upon the bean market in general. Do you believe that the food control law gives the government the authority to fix the price at which producers must sell their beans to the government, or will the government price depend largely upon the supply and what is being paid in the primary markets?

September 13th, 1917.

Following the exchange of these letters, we wired Mr. Orr to telegraph us the result of his conference, but up to the time of going to press, we have not heard further from him. Next week, however, we hope to be in a position to give our readers complete information upon the subjects mentioned in the letters.

Mr. Orr's Reply

Replying to yours of September 13th, would say that I am just leaving for Washington. I am taking your letter with me and am going to let the Government answer some of the questions. On my return I will be glad to answer you in detail.

I might say at this time, that any producer who can pick his beans in accordance with Government requirements, can sell to the army and navy through the writer, the same as anybody who has the beans—grower, shipper, dealer, or whoever he may be, but you have asked some questions that I am glad to get at this time, so that I can place them before the committee.

September 14th, 1917.

crop of 11,000,000 bushels has dwindled down to 7 or 8 million?

We come back across the continent now to Maine, which was the banner potato state of 1916. On a little tour of inspection thru his potato fields one morning, an Aristook county farmer discovers the tips of some of the leaves turning brown. A neighbor makes the same discovery, and in less than a fortnight the late blight wreaks havoc with many fine potato fields. In addition to the blight, the black rot gets in its work, and the government's forecast of the Maine crop for September 1st is 8,000,000

bushels less than the August forecast. Exactly the same situation prevails in New York state, and blight has likewise cut the yield in Minnesota and North Dakota.

On September first over three-fourths of the late crop needed a full four weeks of good weather to mature. But on the nights of September 9th, 10th and 11th, old Jack Frost, obedient to the prophecy of Mr. Foster, MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING's official weather forecaster, swept down thru the principal potato states of

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PREDICTS LOW BEAN YIELD

Jas. N. McBride, State Market Director, Does Not Believe Michigan's Bean Crop Will Run Over Four Million Bushels

The following letter has been received from Mr. Jas. N. McBride, in response to a letter addressed to him by MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING asking him for correct information as to the percentage of the national bean crop grown in Michigan. In our letter to Mr. McBride, we cited a statement credited to him that Michigan grows 75 per cent of the national crop and called his attention to more recent statements that this state now grows only 40 per cent. We asked him which was correct. Mr. McBride's remarks on the 1917 yield are particularly interesting. Please remember while reading, that his statement was made before the recent frosts which further damaged the crop.

"Advising as to your questions in regard to beans, would say that the proportion of Michigan white beans up till 1914 was true as originally stated. Since that time the proportion has been much less, as our yields have been decreasing. With the acreage planted this year and the old time yields we would still have maintained that proportion. The great bulk of the Western bean crop is of other varieties, pintos, pinks, blackeyes and other varieties. California raises a variety called little whites that compete with Michigan beans. The white bean states are New York, Michigan, Idaho, with some scattered all over. Kentucky and West Virginia are in the game this year.

The Government August estimate, of a crop of 22 millions, and Michigan's quota of 8 million is in my opinion and that of the best judges manifestly over large. Michigan cannot even with favorable weather to secure the crop have over 4 million. Much of the acreage in California is on hill land and on land upon which the barley crop was grown this year and then planted in beans. The excessive dry weather, has made the possibilities of this acreage largely negligible. Dry land bean growing in Colorado this year is also very poor. The irrigated crops are excellent. In my opinion Michigan has reached highwater mark in total production, and that, the crop will be grown on smaller acreage with better fertility and culture conditions, in the future. The price this year according to government advices will be based on cost with a fair profit added.

The U. S. will not at present advise fixing the price as was done with

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The speculators are at their old tactics of trying to "bear" the markets, but they can't scare the Michigan Business Farmer.

WISCONSIN SPUDS LOST

MILWAUKEE—Potatoes, corn, tobacco, bean and minor crops throughout Wisconsin have been heavily damaged by the frosts of Sunday and Monday nights, it was reported today. Twenty-five per cent. of the potato crop alone, estimated at 40,000,000 bushels, has been wiped out, according to estimates of J. W. Hicks, president of the Wisconsin Potato Growers' association. At the present prices this would mean a loss of \$10,000,000. Potatoes and corn were particularly damaged in northern and western Wisconsin.

THIS WAS BEFORE THE FROST

NEW ENGLAND—Indications are the late blight will materially decrease the crop of late potatoes in New England, and possibly in western New York. There are so many things that can happen to the crop between now and the time of harvesting that it is practically impossible to forecast with any certainty the final production of potatoes. Late blight continues to gain at Presque Isle, Maine, and the late varieties will not yield more than 50 per cent. normal crop.

CURRENT MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS

FROST DAMAGE OVER 30%

One Hundred Crop Reporters Estimate Damage to Crops From Recent Frosts in Leading Corn, Bean and Potato Counties

Thanks to the loyal response of over 100 farmers in the leading corn, bean and potato counties of the state, we are able to give to our readers what is probably the first authentic report of the damage to the above mentioned crops from the frost of September 9th, 10th and 11th. Striking an average of the damage reported, we find the corn crop was injured 36 per cent, beans 34 per cent, potatoes 34 per cent. While we realize that these figures are somewhat in excess of the latest figures given out by the state authorities, we believe them to be conservative, having been gleaned from a wide observation.

Many interesting facts were gleaned from the reports sent in. Nearly all the reporters agreed that the frost was "freakish," in that it hit many of the high spots and spared crops on some of the low spots. There seems to have been no well-defined path chosen by the frost. It was especially heavy thruout all of the upper part of the lower peninsula and the entire upper peninsula, only sections in the vicinity of the lakes wholly escaping. An unusual feature was the heavy damage reported in counties bordering on Lake Michigan, Berrien county reporting a very heavy loss.

We are anxious to learn of the authenticity of the reports we have gathered, and are therefore requesting that our readers compare the damage we have estimated with their own findings in their respective counties and advise us how far we are off. For further purposes of comparison we are reprinting the estimate of the damage as made by the county agents. Will our readers please tell us frankly which report comes nearest the truth?

Frost Damage as Estimated by County Agents

County	Corn	Beans	Potatoes
Kalamazoo	15	15	15
Tuscola	10	10	None
Calhoun	8	12	10
Van Buren	75	Slight	Slight
Kalamazoo	50	20	15
Crawford	50	20	15
Ogemaw	50	20	15
Oscoda	50	20	15
Roscommon	50	20	15
Oakland	50	35	7
Sanilac	Slight	15	Slight
Clare	25	50	25
St. Clair	50	60	25
Cass	30	20	20
Saginaw	25	40	10
Berrien	75	75	50
Leelanau	Slight	Slight	Slight
Benzie	40	35	40
Allegan	15	30	10
Presque Isle	Slight	30	12
Ontonagon	Slight	Slight	20
Ottawa	50	30	50
Wexford	All very slight		
Midland	30	30	30
Gladwin	75		
Eaton	10	10	10
Oceana	30	30	30
Lapeer	Slight	50	

Mecosta Slight 50 30
Ionia All very slight
Bay 15 5
Wayne 8 5
Gratiot 15 5
Iron 75 90
Montcalm 50 40
Chippewa—Fall yield for all; damage slight

Jackson—Very slight damage, not worth mentioning
Grand Traverse—Damage very slight.

Frost Damage as Estimated by Our Reporters

County	Corn	Beans	Potatoes
Chippewa	100	25	25
Grand Traverse	10	10	10
Emmet	10	30	10
Antrim	15	25	25
Otsego	50	50	30
Charlevoix	30	30	30
Crawford	50	50	50
Alcona	25	15	10
Montmorency	80	75	
Oscoda	25	15	15
Presque Isle	25	25	25

Manistee	50	50	40
Missaukee	90	95	80
Roscommon	90	95	80
Ogemaw	25	25	25
Mason	40	35	15
Oceana	40	35	20
Oscoda	75	60	40
Clare	65	30	30
Arenac	50	50	40
Newaygo	75	50	50
Mecosta	75	50	50
Isabella	25	25	15
Midland	50	30	30
Bay	30	30	10
Huron	10	5	5
Kent	10	30	15
Montcalm	30	25	20
Gratiot	20	25	10
Clinton	15	10	10
Saginaw	25	10	25
Tuscola	30	20	10
Oakland	25	25	10
Genesee	20	35	25
Lapeer	20	75	25
St. Clair	50	60	50
Ingham	25	24	10
Livingston	40	25	30
Washtenaw	25	25	15
Van Buren	60	60	50
Kalamazoo	50	40	25
Calhoun	15	10	10
Jackson	5	5	5
Monroe	5	5	5
Hillsdale	5	5	5
Average for State	36	34	34

STATE BRIEFS

DURAND—Farmers of this neighborhood are laying plans for the organization of a co-operative elevator company.

SAGINAW—The Michigan Bean Growers association will meet in Saginaw October 3-4, according to President W. J. Orr. The pork and bean packing section of the National Canners' association will meet in connection with the bean men.

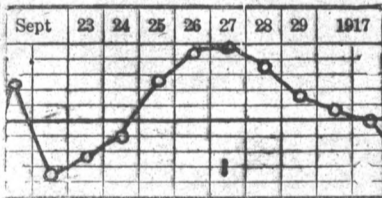
GRAND RAPIDS—Milk dealers on Monday notified their customers that the price of milk had been advanced to 11 cents a quart and that 12 cents would soon be demanded, and that an even higher rate might be looked for soon. The increased cost of feed is given as the reason.

TAWAS CITY—Geo. A. Prescott of this city has been chosen by Herbert Hoover as state administrator for Michigan. He will have charge of investigations of costs of production and marketing which should be allowed in fixing prices of flour, sugar and like staples.

KALAMAZOO—That a nation-wide shortage of celery will result from a small crop in Kalamazoo city and county, is the belief expressed here. Because the weather has been unsatisfactory to grow celery, farmers were unable to put out a second crop. In addition to this the first crop is only 65 per cent normal because unusual weather conditions have caused much celery to go to seed. Early cool weather started the plants to go to seed. The same condition prevails thruout Southern Michigan. Many marshes that were planted late are in good condition. But on the other hand the early plantings are in the majority of cases, total losses. Michigan is one of the main celery producing states in the union.

THE WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

As Forecasted by E. C. Foster for Michigan Business Farming



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Sept. 22.—Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent Sept. 25 to 29, warm wave 24 to 28, cool wave 27 to Oct. 1. This will be an exceedingly important storm. Temperatures will go unusually high, on meridian 90, near Sept. 27, followed by a cold wave and frosts that will damage late corn and threaten cotton. Severe storms are expected near Oct. 2.

Some of our readers who are very much interested in weather matters fail to study the subject. There is no exchange without labor and no understanding without study. The readers must do their parts. A few seem to think they are not interested in a storm wave that does not come their way. We have often tried to explain that they are interested in every storm wave. The low, or storm center, and the high, or cool wave center, are closely related and their combined influences cause all the weather events and weather changes. Without the storm wave—the low—you would get no rain, snow, cold wave, warm wave, cloudy weather, exceedingly clear weather. A storm wave passing thru Canada or a hurricane on the southern seas brings your rains

LANSING—The month of August was the driest of any August within the past 15 years. There was a deficiency of 50 per cent in the rainfall in Lansing and vicinity.

JACKSON—Approximately 1,000 delegates and other members of the Michigan State Grange will meet in Jackson December 11-14 for the annual meeting of that organization.

TRAVERSE CITY—Northern Michigan's apple crop is a failure this year. Buyers say the crop is only 20 per cent normal. Heavy snow storms last spring are responsible. It is said. Plums and peaches were unaffected by the storms and the crop will be normal. Early varieties are being marketed now.

EAST LANSING—Owing to the lateness of the corn crop in many sections of the state, there is every likelihood that there will be a grave shortage of seed corn, says the department of farm crops of the Agricultural college. Every corn grower should see the necessity of selecting his seed early in the field this year.

BIG RAPIDS—The spirit of co-operation which is gripping the farmers of today will be exemplified to a marked extent in this city on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 25-28, when the Gleaners, Grangers and Farmers' Clubs will meet here for a joint fair and celebration. There will be exhibitions of the usual character and many free celebrations, in addition to addresses by well-known men of the state. All the farmers in the section are planning to get together on this occasion for mutual enjoyment and education.

CAMP CUSTER (Battle Creek)—The demise of John Barleycorn awakens no sympathy among the medical staff of Uncle Sam's new cantonment here. "The prohibition of whiskey-making has increased efficiency in the army 100 per cent," said Capt. R. C. Winslow, regimental surgeon. "Normal men are not hard to govern and the absence of liquor has enabled us to move the men in the camp and make all necessary adjustments with scarcely any friction because the men are in a normal condition." Battle Creek is in "dry" territory.

GRAND RAPIDS—Corn, beans, late potatoes, buckwheat and garden truck have progressed during the week, says the weather bureau report. Fall plowing is general and winter wheat and rye seeding is advancing rapidly in the southern counties. Reports indicate that the winter rye acreage will be considerably increased. Pastures are becoming rather dry and would be benefited by rain. Sugar beets are making slow growth, but are promising. Corn for silage will be cut this week in the southern counties.

A SATISFIED ADVERTISER

We are having so many inquiries from the ad. in the Sept. 8th issue of Michigan Business Farming that we think it advisable to continue it this week and next. Strachan & Son, Ionia, Mich.

Publisher's note: Those of our readers who want to buy or sell should turn to page 11 and note our free trial advertising offer to subscribers.

STATE MEN AID IN PRICE-FIXING

U. S. Government to Determine With Aid of Michigan Experts Prices They Should Pay on Food Supplies for Army and Navy

The United States Government will not fix prices on other farm crops than wheat, directly. However, in purchasing army supplies the Federal Authorities desire to know the cost of crop production and allow a fair profit thereon. It is expected that the purchase price by the United States for military purposes will also be the price paid for civilian uses. Speculation in handling is forbidden. There is then no incentive to establish price limits below cost with a view to increased profits by dealers. To consider these problems and to place Agriculture on the plane of other industries, a commission of the following persons has been asked to consider crop costs of Bean and Potato growing in Michigan. On the part of the Michigan Agricultural College, County Agents will be consulted.

Representing Bean and Potato growers:

Jason Woodman—Paw Paw, Michigan.
A. B. Cook, Owosso, Mich.
Jno. Beal, Lakeview, Michigan.
Jotham Allen, Alma, Michigan.

Representing the Business Interests of Michigan:

R. C. Rothfuss, Adrian, Michigan.
Joseph H. Brewer, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Judge Frank Williams, Allegan.

Representing Agricultural Organization:

Hon. Chas. B. Scully, Almont, Mich.
Nathan Simpson, Hartford, Mich.
John C. Ketchum, Hastings, Mich.

This body will be asked to meet at the Agricultural College Sept. 25 to consider such cost questions. Representative bean growers and potato growers will be asked to advise growing costs. Copies of circular attached will be sent to farmers for collaboration of cost accounts. The assistance of advices from the Agricultural College in the various departments will be at the disposal of this Commission.

In determining cost of crop production there are certain inherent errors when the particular crop is segregated from the general business of farming. No provision is made for the continued costs of farm operations the season through, which is essential for the production of the particular acre under consideration. The farmer must live and maintain his team power during the entire season. To place all of railroad cost of maintenance upon passenger or freight traffic would unduly increase the cost of one branch at the expense of the other. To establish a more equitable acre cost of farm production, it is proposed to consider the farm as a unit and from that calculate the acre cost of crops. The unit cost of bushels or pounds is then determined by the annual yield.

It would be a good plan for our readers to submit to us statements on the 1917 cost of producing their beans and potatoes. Send these in to us and we will refer them to the above men.

I certainly think your paper an invaluable aid to the farmer and hope you have the success you deserve.—James I. Elkins, Millbrook, Mich.

You have hit the nail squarely on the head. Keep it coming. Yours for success.—Clyde Wade, Ingham county.

A great paper. I am reading mine and passing it on to win subscriptions.—C. H. Archer, Cass county.

Got my first edition yesterday and sat up half the night reading it and it was great. Will try and get other subscribers.—Florence Burton, Gratiot county.

Just what we want; a paper that gives the farmer the farmer's side of the markets.—David Stiles, Barry county.

Michigan Business Farming will sure be of great benefit to all farmers who will listen to and heed your market advice. May best of success be yours.—G. A. Mosey, Mecosta county.

WEEKLY WASHINGTON LETTER



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Positively the only thing now-a-days that's cheap is talk and too much of that is proving

expensive for some folks. Talk of peace and a secret service man picks you up and you are hung for being a traitor; talk of your objections to compulsory military service and you are hissed as a coward and ostracized from your community; talk of a profitable price for your farm products and the mob calls you a "profiteer," an enemy to your country and an abettor of the enemy. But there's one place in these great United States where you can talk and talk till your tongue gets tired and the floor swims in your perspiration, and that place is the United States senate. Talk there is as cheap and free as the air you breathe, and in considerable greater quantities. When a Senator gets tired of standing and talking he sits down and talks, and when his flow of oratory overtakes his gabbling machinery, he uses sign language with hands and feet, until exhausted in both tongue and body, he is carried away to recuperate and get ready for another gabfest.

It is now believed by the best authorities that Congress is not nearly so stupid as has been thought, that the only reason that it dodges many of the very simple problems, is to make an opportunity for debate. Take, for instance, the war-profits provision in the tax bill. This was a matter that Congress should have settled in a single day's time. There was plenty of precedence to follow; there was a principle of rights involved which was easily recognizable, and had Congress proceeded at once to a vote on the merits of the proposition, the taxes of the war would have been distributed equitably and fairly. But Congress could not sacrifice this splendid opportunity to display its oratorical and argumentative ability, and shortly became involved in an endless debate which effectually clouded the real issues, and created false situations and aroused silly fears of what Big Business might do to the country if its profits were tampered with.

Nobody will ever know just how much freedom of speech in the United States Congress costs the nation, and the worst of it all is that Congress is just beginning to realize the joy of this freedom and to get its vocal organs in good working order. Such is the price of democracy. If the same problems of finance, huge as they are, confronted a corporation, its board of directors of five men would solve them in a week's time, and solve them right.

Congressman Joe Fordney of the eighth Michigan district continues to hold his reputation as friend of the "interests." He has consistently opposed all efforts in the house to place the bulk of the war burden on the big profiteers, and as a result has been the object of much bitter criticism from his colleagues. Here's what some of them had to say about Mr. Fordney's stand:

"The gentleman from Michigan says that a large part of the cost of the war should be placed on posterity because the war has been declared by us. Posterity was not present or consulted, and may or may not approve that declaration," said Rep. Sloan of Nebraska.

"The gentleman from Michigan is not interested in posterity," said Rep. Keating of Colorado; "his protest is directed against the placing of taxes on wealth. When he pleads for posterity what he means to say is that congress should not take from excess profits and from great incomes the money to run the government."

Michigan sugar beet growers face a serious problem in the proposal of the government to fix a price of 7 1/4 cents per pound on sugar. 90 per cent. of the Michigan manufacturers have agreed to accept the government's plan providing they can be released from their contracts with the growers which call for the payment of a minimum price of \$7.25 per ton for beets, with an additional \$1 per ton for every dollar paid for sugar over \$6.25 per hundred. With sugar selling today at \$8.50 per hundred in New York, it may readily be seen how much the farmer stands to lose if the

price is fixed at \$7.25 or as Jos. Fordney would have it, \$6. Food Administrator Hoover is quite decided that sugar prices shall come down, and if necessary to bring the producers of beet sugar to terms, he threatens to lend special encouragement to the cane sugar industry. No less an authority in the matter of beet sugar production cost that Rep. Fordney has stated that a price of six cents a pound for refined sugar would leave ample room for profit for all producers and manufacturers. Cuban cane sugar can be produced at a price that will permit its sale at a profit in the United States at less than 5 cents a pound, Mr. Fordney declared.

The situation looks very bad indeed for Michigan beet producers. It seems as tho all of their efforts last spring to secure a proper price for their beets will go to naught. The farmers CANNOT raise beets profitably for less than \$7.25 per ton, and when the government talks of forcing them to accept a lesser price they are threatening the future of the entire beet sugar industry.

The source of all this talk about 6 cent sugar is one of the mysteries of the day. It seems to have had its origin in the paradoxical remarks of Rep. Fordney before Mr. Hoover several weeks ago, at which time Mr. Fordney told Hoover that there was no reason for the present high price of sugar. This immediately started the ball rolling, and seemingly pinning his faith entirely to Fordney's opinion, the Food Administrator has set his mind on reducing sugar prices. But what queers the entire situation is Mr. Fordney's attitude. As an acknowledged "friend" of the sugar interests of his district, it is reasonable to suppose that Fordney is backed by the manufacturers, but the next puzzle is, what irons have they got in the fire. One thing, at least, is apparent. Regardless of the price paid to the producer or the loss he may sustain thru a reduction of the sugar price, the manufacturers will continue to reap their profits. The fact that so large a number of them have gladly acceded to the government's proposal is proof enough that they are not the ones who will suffer. There is a possibility that the manufacturers are taking advantage of this opportunity to destroy the morale of the producers who have gained their present status after many years of unremunerative prices. No matter what the reasons back of the move, there is little doubt as to the outcome. The producers of Michigan may quite safely look for low beet prices this fall.

The meeting of the grain growers this week in St. Paul is generally considered as a reproach against the action of the Senate in letting war profiteers off so easily in the revenue bill. Moreover, there is a feeling that the farmers are wholly justified in protesting against the fixing of a maximum price upon their produce while monopoly still holds unhindered sway over the prices of many articles that the farmer must purchase. One of the best articles yet published on the discrimination in the revenue bill is the following editorial from the DETROIT NEWS.

"Farmers of the great wheat producing states will meet in St. Paul this week to complain to the government that they are discriminated against. A price has been fixed for their crop which gives them what is considered by the government a 'reasonable' profit; but they claim that the revenue bill which has passed the senate and will soon be adopted by congress, after a conference committee of both has agreed on it, discriminates in favor of the wealthy.

"This bill is one of the most complex pieces of legislation that congress has ever considered.

"Let us suppose the case and make it as simple as possible:

"Here is a corporation with an invested capital of \$50,000,000. Its average profits for 1911, 1912 and 1913, the three pre-war years cited in the act, were \$5,000,000 a year. But it managed to get some war contracts, so that its 1917 profits are \$10,000,000. What tax will it have to pay on its war profits?

"In the first place, the corporation can deduct the average profits of the three-year period, provided they do not exceed 10 per cent of the invested capital. Happily, in this case the profits were exactly 10 per cent. Deducting this \$5,000,000, we find a war profit of \$5,000,000.

"The next step is to discover what percentage this profit bears to the amount deducted. It happens to be 100 per cent. On this 100 per cent the government exacts a 30 per cent war profits tax, or \$1,500,000. Thus the company which paid its stockholders \$5,000,000 a year before the war can pay them, in 1917, the sum of \$8,500,000, an increase of 70 per cent.

"Are the farmers justified in their complaint? Does anyone imagine that they are getting 70 per cent larger incomes than before the war? Great Britain would allow this corporation an excess of 20 per cent, no more.

"Now suppose that the corporation made only \$6,000,000. Its excess profits under the act would thus be \$1,000,000, or 20 per cent of the deduction allowed. On that sum it would pay a war tax of only 16 per cent, or \$160,000. The British government would take \$800,000.

"Suppose, again, that the corporation's profits amount to \$15,000,000 this year. The war profits are thus \$10,000,000, or 200 per cent in excess of the 10 per cent deduction allowed. On that sum it would pay only 40 per cent, or \$4,000,000, to the government, leaving \$6,000,000 to be distributed among the stockholders in addition to the liberal 10 per cent dividend. Great Britain would take \$3,000,000 in taxes and leave stockholders \$2,000,000.

"Senator Weeks, defending the revenue bill, visualized a possible fall of prices if the war should end next year. But does anybody really believe that the end of the war will cause prices to fall? Rather will not the demand for everything needed to rebuild Europe keep prices at a high level? Wise heads in Great Britain do not foresee calamity as the result of 80 per cent excess profits tax. They are willing that industry be liberally reimbursed for its ventures into new realms of munitions and supplies manufacture, but they do not believe that the men behind these undertakings should be made rich in a few months at the expense of the rest of the country, especially when profits in other lines are specifically limited. Congress should heed the St. Paul conference. Its recommendations are likely to be important."

WAR WIRES

According to a press despatch there were more than a million volunteers actually in the service of the United States on September 6th. The total number of men was 1,074,146 which was exclusive of those called in the draft army.

As an important war measure the United States has limited the amount of coal that can be exported to Canada. The shortage of this fuel in this country prompted the fuel administrator to check the exports except those granted licenses approved by the fuel administration.

Japan with her great merchant fleet is now laying plans to greatly assist her allies by moving a large number of her vessels into the Atlantic waters. She has promised to divert as much tonnage as she can spare to the Atlantic routes. Her shipyards will also be used for building British ships.

The war credits bill authorizing new bonds and certificates aggregating \$11,538,000,000, and the largest measure of its kind in the world's history, has been adopted by the Senate just as it was reported to this body by the House. Not a dissenting vote was registered against it in the Senate.

Secretary of War Baker has announced that the United States expects to have 22,000 planes ready for use in France by spring. The work of carrying out the mammoth air program is being pushed with the greatest of speed. The air fleet is expected to "put out the eyes of Germany" and turn the tide of the war for the Allies.

Fourteen thousand young men from every town and city in Michigan began pouring into Camp Custer at Battle Creek Wednesday to take their places in the national army. Half holidays were declared the previous day in practically every county in the state so that people could view one of the largest military pageants in the history of Michigan.

Losses from German submarine attacks upon Allied commerce showed a marked decrease last week while the number of German submarines reported sunk from gun fire increased. Eight of Germany's best under-water fighting vessels were reported sunk. These vessels were sent to the bottom in battles with British auxiliary cruisers, seaplanes and a British submarine.

A plan for co-operation in war legislation by the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia was presented to Congress last week by Henry Franklin Bouillon, vice president of the chamber of deputies. The plan urges the appointment of a congressional commission of seven senators and eighteen representatives as a United States inter-parliamentary delegation to join with similar bodies from other Allied governments in quarterly meetings. The conference would act in an advisory capacity.

The reply of the Central Powers to the Peace note of Pope Benedict indicate that they regard the Papal proposals as a suitable basis for peace negotiations. They expressed their sincere desire for a peace that will insure happiness to all nations. Conciliatory declarations also are made respecting the settlement of the Balkan question, Poland and the restoration of Belgium, but emphasis is laid on the condition that the Allied powers must also give serious evidence of a desire for peace by a joint and benevolent discussion of the questions which now separate the nations.

The attention of the world for the past week has again been rivetted upon Russia where a great internal struggle flared up to cause a feeling of great anxiety among her allies in the world war. The tensify of the situation has been partially relieved by the arrest of General Korniloff, leader of the recent revolution against the provisional government, and General Lokomsky, who refused to take command of the Russian armies after Korniloff was deposed. Korniloff's arrest brings the counter-revolution against the provisional government to a definite end, press despatches say, and Russia's political crisis has been solved. A new cabinet has been set up with a republican form of government. In order to definitely crush the internal disturbances and civil war, Premier Kerensky found it necessary to put into execution the "blood and iron" policy the government had threatened to use to cope with the situation.

Copies of three brief messages made public by the state department last week revealed another case of sinister German diplomacy, this time directed against Argentina and involving the Swedish foreign office. The messages intercepted by the U. S. government were to Berlin from Count Luxburg, the German charge at Buenos Aires, and forwarded there by the Swedish legation as its own communications. The messages advised the imperial government to grant no concessions to Argentina in the submarine controversy and suggested that her ships be sunk without leaving any trace, and information as to the sailing and positions of certain vessels. The new revelation of German intrigue and duplicity furnished by the Argentine-Swedish episode surprised the world and in this country it is thought that a discovery has been made as to the source thru which much valuable information has been constantly leaking to Germany since war was declared. The Argentine government is expected to break diplomatic relations with Germany as its foreign office has sent a communication to the German foreign minister demanding an explanation of Count Luxburg's action in sending the secret code messages thru the Swedish legation.



The farmers of the Middle West voice their disapproval of the Revenue Bill by protesting against the maximum price on their grain.

BRITISH FOOD SUPPLY SHORT

World Shortage is Greater Peril Than Submarine Says Food Director Rhondda, and Threatens War Rations

Evidence of the world-wide shortage of food supplies keep coming from Europe, and the situation in England has become so grave that a new food economy campaign has been found necessary by Food Dictator Rhondda in order to still further conserve the supply.

"If voluntary measures fail," said Baron Rhondda, "I shall put the nation on compulsory rations."

He added that the danger of the situation did not lie in the submarine peril but in the world's shortage of cereals, meats and fats.

Baron Rhodda made his statement to the American correspondents here after telling them that the minimum foodstuff requirements from the United States and Canada during the forthcoming 12 months would be more than 10,000,000 tons, representing an expenditure of \$1,250,000,000.

The food controller announced measures also for stabilizing the sugar trade, with a committee in New York to supervise Cuban purchases.

"The establishment of this committee and of a 'meats and fats executive,' " said Baron Rhodda, "is typical of the way we are all working together to solve the Allied food problem with the least possible dislocation of trade and in a united determination that the armies and civil populations shall be provided at a fair price with food enough to assure victory."

FROST, BLIGHT AND ROT CUT POTATO YIELD

(Continued from page 1)

the union and lopped off the big end of the promised bumper yield. North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, northern sections of Illinois and Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine, were all hit. In some sections of all of these states potato tops were

BEFORE THE FROSTS OF SEPT. 9th-11th.

MINNESOTA—(Polk, Red Lake, Vorman, Clay, Ottertail and Becker counties): Weather ideal for farm work. Early potatoes are turning out well, but the later ones are lighter than expected. Local frosts have done a great deal of damage to all crops. Within the last few weeks several new potato warehouses are being built.

frozen to the ground and the crop utterly ruined and not worth digging. In other sections the frost cut the growth 50 per cent and down, while in a few localities it was not felt by the crop.

No one has attempted a forecast of the potato yield since these frosts, as the reports from afflicted sections have been too conflicting. As shown elsewhere in this issue, we estimate the damage to late potatoes from the frosts in Michigan at about 34 per cent. This would mean a decrease of from ten to twelve million bushels, based on the government's latest fore-

MILLIONS OF MINNESOTA POTATOES FROZEN TO THE GROUND

DULUTH—Northern Minnesota suffered heavily last night from frost. Corn, potatoes and garden truck were frozen to the ground. Small gardeners here lost everything. The official low temperature was 30 degrees. Woodland and Arnold, East Duluth suburbs, reported 22 degrees.

cast. We have made every possible effort to secure authentic reports of the frost damage in other leading potato states, but at the best our information is meager. All reports agree that the crop was badly dam-

aged, and we feel safe in placing the damage to the national potato crop from both blight and frost since August 1st at from 25 to 30 per cent.

Assuming that our figures are correct, it would mean a decrease of over 100,000,000 bushels from the government's August forecast. In other words, the national crop, with a continuance of growing weather to maturity will not greatly exceed 350,000,000 bushels, or about one-third larger than the 1916 crop.

No account has been taken in this article of the export needs of the current year. With the world's wheat crop hundreds of millions of bushels short, there will be a vigorous demand by the warring nations for potatoes, and there is little doubt but what this will be the greatest export year ever seen in the history of the potato growing industry.

WISCONSIN—The heavy frosts of Sunday and Monday nights damaged the corn crop, more than half of which was still in the soft state. Potatoes especially late potatoes, badly damaged by the frost. The amount of the damage cannot be estimated at this time.

The day after the first frost reports were published, the price of potatoes went up ten and fifteen cents on the principal markets, and in spite of general denials of the extent of the damage as contained in some of the earlier reports, the prices have continued firm. Receipts have fallen off very materially on all the big markets, and it seems remarkable in face of the big production that has been prophesied that buyers on the big markets are offering from \$1.40 to \$1.60 for the choicest grades.

Another encouraging feature of the entire situation is the manner in which the producers are handling their crops. Very little of Michigan's earlies have been moved to the market, and other states report similar experience. Local buyers seem to be in a quandary as to how to handle the

POTATOES ARE SMALL

NEW JERSEY—Crops of all kinds have been injured by the drouth. Potatoes are small, but many in a hill, and there would have been a record crop of high-grade roots under favorable conditions.

situation, and prices on local Michigan markets continue to vary greatly. It is apparent that many buyers do not want to take a chance on stocking up with high-priced potatoes, and hence in some sections are offering as low as 55 cents per bushel. In other localities, however, the dealers are bolder and some counties report prices of \$1.25 and upward being paid the growers. Reader after reader has written in to us saying that they will not sell their potatoes for 75 or 80 cents a bushel. The general feeling is that the tubers this year are worth \$1 at least, and if a large enough number of the farmers stick for the higher price they will get it.

The only excuse that we can see of any farmer's disposing of his crop at a less-than-dollar-price is actual need

of the money. If the growers as a class sit tight for another 30 days they will see higher prices paid on their local markets. They are doing this in other states and Michigan business farmers should follow suit. Already the government is at work studying the potato situation with a view to distributing the crop to the very best advantage of the grower. Whether anything comes of these efforts remains to be seen, but it is apparent that the government believes itself duty bound to the great number of growers whom it encouraged to increase their acreage last spring, to help in the profitable disposal of the crop. All things considered, the immediate potato future looks promising and every farmer would do well to become thoroly informed on the situation before sacrificing his crop at less than cost prices.

McBRIDE PREDICTS ONLY 4 MILLION BEAN CROP.

(Continued from page 1)

wheat, but will have to assist in price making as a large purchaser, for army and navy uses. Approximately one million bushels will be the government demand for these uses. The Navy will get the white beans and the other varieties including some whites go to the army.

The State as well as the National Department of Markets are working on cost prices. The acre cost must be first determined and then the yield will determine the bushel cost. In Monroe county, New York, the cost of growing an acre of beans based on a series of years determination is \$51.35 per acre.

There are various objectors who say that cost prices can not be used because they are so variable. Several months ago the U. S. bought 4,500,000 pounds of copper at 15 cents. The actual cost of production varied from 8 to 13 cents at the different mines. To have struck an average mean price, would have left no profit to the high cost producers. So the price was made to allow a reasonable profit to all. The new view of Agricultural operations is that, these must be placed on a business basis, and that there must be a profit above cost. In fact the U. S. authorities told us distinctly that the price of beans should include a profit just as is allowed the distributors, for their work. Now can we in Michigan take them at their word and assist in putting farming on this basis? It is the greatest opportunity that has come to Agriculture in ages and we ought to bend every nerve to accomplishment. No greater stabilizer could come to farming than the assurance that if we produced the crop it would be paid for at a profit. There would be such a stimulus to agriculture as to turn the tide of famine. It would usher in the golden era of our fondest dreams, of farm and country life. On another sheet I am taking this matter up specifically.—Jas. N. McBride.

"Sign the Pledge"

You can render the best service to Michigan Business Farming by showing this paper to your neighbors and asking them to "sign the pledge."

We, the undersigned, by our signatures herewith, pledge ourselves to one year's subscription to Michigan Business Farming, and promise to send \$1 on or before December 1st, 1917.

NAME	ADDRESS

Circulator's Name.....Address.....

FOSTER FORECASTED FROSTS

Official Weather Man for Michigan Business Farming Only One to Foretell Coming of Killing Frosts in Northern Latitudes.

There are weather prophets and weather prophets. Some of them are fakirs, pure and simple, who make long-distance "guesses" at the weather, and usually fall wide of the mark. The government weather office is naturally supposed to be the most reliable source of weather prophecy in existence, but the terrible blunders that have emanated from that source would have driven Noah to tears. And it is of common knowledge that the Detroit branch of the bureau hits the nail on the head about once out of five times, altho it seldom attempts a forecast of the weather for a greater period than one week.

However, we all recognize that there is no such a thing as infallibility in forecasting the weather which is about the most uncertain commodity in existence unless it be its twin conspirator, Coal. But there is one weather forecaster to whom we have to take off our hats for he makes a surprisingly accurate forecast a full month in advance. This is Mr. E. C. Foster, who has been forecasting the weather for farm papers for years and has earned a very enviable reputation for his success.

The most recent notable achievement of Mr. Foster was his forecasting of the killing frosts which swept the northern states on Sept. 9th, 10th and 11th, and which was published in the Sept. 8th issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. Mr. Foster's forecast on this occasion read as follows:

"Last bulletin gave forecasts of disturbances to cross continent August 30 to September 3 and September 5 to 8, warm wave August 29 to Sept. 2 and Sept. 4 to 8, cold wave Sept. 1 to 5 and 7 to 9. These will carry us past the warm weather, with a great fall in temperatures Sept. 1 to 11 and killing frosts in the northern states and Canada near the latter date.

Trend of temperatures will be upward. Light to killing frosts are expected in some parts of middle west, Canada and northern states near Sept. 11, and some late corn will be damaged.

It is worthy of mention that no other weather prophet in this section even hinted at these frosts, and it was not until they were nearly upon us that local weather offices recognized their presence and too late to warn farmers. Mr. Foster, being human, does not always hit the nail on the head, but he always comes close enough to make his forecasts of the highest value to those who will follow them.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW ACRE OF WHEAT

The following figures on the cost of wheat production submitted by Jas. N. McBride, state market director, shows very clearly why the maximum price of \$2.20 that the government has fixed is not sufficient to pay the farmer a fair profit. Tell us what it costs you to grow a bushel or an acre of wheat:

20 hrs. per man at 30 cts. per hr.	\$6.00
20 hrs. per team at 25 cts. per hr.	5.00
1 1/2 bus. seed wheat at \$1.60 per bu.	2.40
250 lbs. fertilizer at \$24 per ton	3.00
10 loads stable manure at 50 cts.	5.00
Labor, man and team applying same	5.50
day	5.50
\$100 per acre land, int. on same	6.00
Taxes	1.00
Assume on 160 acres of land estimate of \$2400 of teams and tools engaged in general farming, 12 1/2 per cent. depreciation and maintenance on same annually divided over 160 acres equals	1.90
per acre	1.90
Taxes	1.00
Interest on \$2400 tools and teams at 6 per cent. equals per acre	.90
Interest on items 1 to 6 inclusive because there are incurred nearly 12 months before sale of crops	1.58
Binder twine per acre	.40
Hauling to barn or stack	1.25
Threshing per acre	1.50
Marketing assuming 5 miles average haul	1.25
Proportion of farm superintendence of owner aside from labor already accounted for and also idle team during winter covering whole season's operations	5.00
Total	\$46.43
12 1-2 per cent insurance fund covering seasonal losses below a profitable minimum when losses are beyond grower's control	7.25
Total	\$56.68

MARKET FLASHES

AVERAGE PRICES IN MICHIGAN

Little Change Noted in Quotations Today and Those Given in Issue of September 8th, on Michigan Local Markets

The average of Michigan farm crop prices varies little from those reported in our issue of Sept. 8th. This is the most encouraging indication of a good strong market we could have, as the past fortnight was the logical period for much of the grain to be moved to market, yet prices on cereals remain practically stationary.

Some buyers are still offering less than \$2 for wheat, and we intend to find out the reason for it. We would like to know why a farmer at Cass City can't get over \$1.97 for his wheat, when in the neighboring county of Bay, dealers are paying \$2.05. We know of no reason either why a farmer at West Branch should be asked to sell his wheat for \$1.95 when at Alger, just a few miles south of West Branch, he can secure \$2.00 per bushel. Or again, why wheat should be quoted at \$2.07 in Greenville, Montcalm county, while a few miles away at Rehus in Mecosta county, it is quoted at \$1.90. Farmers let us advise you again, don't sell your wheat for less than \$2; you ought not to accept less than \$2.05 for the best grade; hang onto it and you'll get that much before many weeks have passed. The average price being paid today on Michigan markets for wheat is an even \$2.

Oats are one cent lower than two weeks ago on all Michigan markets. The average price is 56 cents. Rye is higher at \$1.64, and hay at \$11.28 a little lower.

Altho much of the early crop of potatoes has been dug and some moved onto the market, the price remains steady, the average of \$1.04 for the state being only 4 cents less than quoted two weeks ago. The popular prices in the leading potato sections range from 75 cents to \$1. On Sept. 14th, Greenville was offering \$1.10 for choice stock, and the prices in the potato growing sections of the northern part of the state range a little higher than previously.

Eggs and butter are both quoted several cents higher than in our last report.

We wish to make this one request of our readers, that they watch their local markets carefully and compare the prices offered with those quoted each week in MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. If your dealers are not offering you what you think your stock ought to command, do not hesitate to write us, and if necessary in order to ascertain the reason for the "bearish" attitude of the buyers, we will not hesitate to refer their case to the food board. Keep in mind always that there is a vigorous demand for everything you raise, and do not fear to hang onto your products until the prices offered make it profitable for you to sell.

WHEAT			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 White	2.17	2.19	2.27
No. 3 White	2.15	2.18	2.27
No. 2 Red	2.19	2.20	2.28
No. 3 Red	2.18	2.19	2.28

Buyers report a shortage of cash wheat on all markets. During the uncertain period before the government established the wheat price, millers held off buying with the result that their stocks of flour are now very low and the available supply of wheat is limited.

There is a discount ranging around 15 cents per bushel on smutty wheat. This may be made even higher next year. Therefore it behooves growers

LAST MINUTE WIRES

CHICAGO WIRE—Cattle market strong, corn fed beefs selling at new high record price of \$17.50; hog prices higher at \$18.75; grain buying enormous, corn closing high but oats weaker.

DETROIT SPECIAL—Poultry market easy, heavy receipts; potato demand continues strong; large receipts of medium cattle.

NEW YORK—All grain markets firm; hay unsettled; butter and eggs continue in strong demand with light receipts; peaches and apples plentiful. Potato market weakening slightly under incoming crop of Maine cobbles.

to treat seed for smut. This is a very important matter and means a heavy loss unless promptly taken in hand.

The Government has ruled that no wheat fit for human consumption can be sold for chicken feed, etc. Manufacturers of scratch feeds are willing to pay a premium for the grain but are having a hard time securing a supply sufficient for their immediate needs.

There is no more staple product in the world today than wheat and the production as we have already noted in previous issues, is far short of the needs. Yet there is apparently little wheat moving to market from the big grain growing districts of the Middle

West. This is not true, however, of the lesser important wheat states which are readily supplying the market in limited quantities at the present time. The farmers of the grain growing states have "balked" at the price set by the Government and millions upon millions of bushels are in private storage awaiting the outcome of the conference held this week between the growers' representatives and the Government officials, at St. Paul.

There seems to be little likelihood that the wheat board will rescind its decision on the maximum price it has fixed for wheat, altho great pressure is being brought to bear upon them to do so. It might be well, however, for our readers to hold their wheat a little longer. The price will certainly not go lower and there is a very faint possibility that it may go higher.

Exports of wheat since Aug. 1, commencement of European crop year, compared for three seasons:

	1917-18	1916-17	1915-16
American	35,792,000	49,229,000	33,852,000
Indian	3,439,000	5,966,000	1,872,000
Argen'n	11,170,000	4,868,000	2,168,000
Austral'n	9,152,000	5,588,000	
Others	281,000	1,039,000	1,980,000
Total	59,834,000	70,012,000	40,482,000
Season	539,934,000	602,867,000	

OATS			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 1 White	.63	.62	.73
No. 2 White	.63	.62	.73
No. 3 White	.62	.62	.72
No. 2 Mixed	.62	.62	.72

The oat market has advanced considerably since our last meeting and is ruling firm despite the exceptionally large crop.

The export demand has greatly increased. This has had a bracing effect on the market. Domestic demand is also good as there is such a spread between corn at oat prices as to give the latter grain preference.

Generally speaking the oat situation is rather complex and a difficult one to figure out. A great deal depends on the corn market and the attitude of the Government.

The volume of arrivals on the New York market has increased moderately, but is still much below normal for this time of year. Transportation difficulties are partly responsible, as but few shipments are coming through in average time, while the larger proportion of them are greatly delayed. These conditions will doubtless obtain indefinitely because of the increased use of the rails for Government business. The delay in expected arrivals compelled dealers to provide for immediate necessities from limited spot offerings, thereby maintaining premiums to an unusual extent.

Mighty fine paper. Wish you the best of success and my support is yours.—Carlton E. Lewis, Ypsilanti.

It is not expected that present premiums will hold, but the recession so far has been more gradual than is customary at this season. Recent advances at the West have not been fully followed in this market because of the existing high levels.

Exports of oats Aug. 1, 1917, to Sept. 1, 1917, and comparisons for three years:

	1917-18	1916-17	1915-16
American	16,012,000	19,482,000	7,794,000
Argen'n	767,000	12,941,000	
Others		300,000	1,550,000
Total	16,779,000	32,723,000	9,344,000
Season	162,753,000	165,800,000	

CORN			
GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	New York
No. 2 Yellow	2.15	2.10	2.20
No. 3 Yellow	2.14	2.09	2.20
Common	2.13	2.08	2.16
No. 2 Mixed			

Despite the fact that the distillers are no longer buyers of corn for making whiskey, they are still using it for making alcohol, the market continues to advance. At the time of writing this article corn is quoted on Chicago Change at \$2.13 per bu., 13 cents above the Government's basic price on wheat.

Frost has undoubtedly caused more damage than many traders are willing to admit while on the other hand the damage may perhaps not prove so great generally as certain growers and county agents might be led to be-

lieve from a survey of local conditions.

It will require several weeks of favorable weather to insure harvesting of the present crop in good condition, especially in the more northern sections of the corn belt.

The carry over this year will perhaps be less than for many years. It is generally believed that old stocks are practically exhausted.

While there is every indication of a record-breaking crop, still there will also be a record-breaking demand and corresponding satisfactory prices.

According to our crop reports, such Michigan corn as escaped the frost,

Here's hoping you succeed in this grand work. I passed the extra to a neighbor who has signed. You must succeed for our sake. It's our great hope.—W. A. Smith, Montcalm county.

will require two more weeks of good weather to mature it. The government forecast for September 1st of Michigan's corn yield is just a trifle higher than its August forecast. Where they get the "dope" we do not know, for we cannot see how Michigan can possibly produce anywhere near 51,000,000 bushels of marketable corn this year. Thousands of acres of corn are already being cut for silage as there is no hope of its ripening, and lucky is the farmer who has his silo bought and erected.

Exports of corn since Nov. 1, 1916, compared with last year and year before:

	1916-17	1915-16	1914-15
Amer'n	42,582,000	38,752,000	39,856,000
Arg'n	56,128,000	88,296,000	138,306,000
Oth'rs	2,815,000	12,069,000	3,588,000
Tot.	101,523,000	137,118,000	181,852,000
Seas'n	216,746,000	176,367,000	

RYE

There is a very strong demand for rye and vetch mixed. Receipts on all terminal markets are very light. Originating points report very little rye on hand so we see no sign of an immediate relief for buyers looking for rye.

The market has regained the slight

I am well pleased with the sample of your paper and hope you make a success.—Lloyd W. Lyke, Leelanau county.

decline of a few days ago. There really was no reason for it in the first place.

Rye is worth somewhere around \$1.90 per bu. at middle western terminal points.

BEANS

The Government has set a price on its bean purchases of \$7.35 per bu. Just what effect this may have on the general market remains to be seen.

The large crop of beans promised earlier in the season has been materially lessened by the early frosts. It is too early to get a definite idea of just what the frost damage will be.

No doubt much of the stock this year, especially in the northern part of Michigan will pick heavily. There will certainly be a lot of beans dis-

Anything to help the good work along. With full appreciation of the good you have done the farmers.—A. S. Nelson, Muskegon county.

colored by frost and while such stock usually sells below the market, still it is just as good for food.

The demand generally is just a little quiet although the Government is a free buyer. The advent of cold weather always brings an increased demand for beans.

Bean growers and jobbers are both anxious to ascertain to what extent the price the government has fixed upon its own purchases will effect the general market, and it is expected that more authentic information can be given upon this matter the coming week.

I am with you. The paper is fine. Send it right along.—Allen J. Mains, Calhoun county.

SELLING WHAT YOU RAISE AT A PROFIT is equally as important as raising the utmost your land will produce. Our editor, Grant Slocum, was one of the first leaders in America to advance this theory and no expense has been spared to make this department without question the best of its kind in America.

The prices quoted are received from direct sources on all leading markets and form a basis by which any reader can find out exactly what his product is worth on his local market.

The price your local buyer should pay is the price quoted less freight from your shipping point to the best market, with a reasonable allowance for his commission or profit.

The advice given is written by our own employed market editor and is based on his best judgment with the facts and figures from all parts of the country before him. This advice is given wholly from the farmers' side of the fence, and while of course, it is not infallible, still an experience covering many years has proven that in the long run our Market Editor's advice based on this daily study of the markets, is the most reliable and the only unprejudiced advice which the farmers of Michigan are able to secure thru any known source.

Special direct Market Advice or best price on any commodity will be given any subscriber of record to this publication any day in the week by mail, wire or telegraph, inquirer to pay sending and receiving costs. Address Market Editor, 323 Russell street, Detroit. Telephone Cherry 2021.



Markets	No. 1 Timothy	Standard Timothy	No. 2 Timothy
Detroit	17 50 18 00	16 50 17 00	15 50 16 00
Chicago	23 50 24	22 23	20 21
Cincinnati	22 25 50 21 50	22 20	20 50
Pittsburgh	22 25 50 17 50	18 16 50 17	
New York	18 19	17 50 18	16 17
Richmond	19 50 20	17 50 18 50	16 50 17 50

Eastern markets report a great shortage of all grades of hay. Lack of cars for shipping is no doubt the rather light. Farmers are busy with Fall work and very few of them are hauling hay.

Reports would indicate that there is considerable old hay still left. This no doubt will be moved as quickly as transportation can be secured. What effect it will have on the price of the new crop remains to be seen.

New York reports supplies light and markets firm at somewhat higher values than last week. The Baltimore

First copy sent worth \$1 to me, and more than that. Thanks.—W. E. Boyles, Van Buren county.

market is steady under light receipts. Boston reports buyers taking hold more generally and a firm tone to the market.

Pittsburgh reports a great shortage and corresponding advance in price. All southern markets report light supplies.

Detroit and Chicago markets are under-supplied with prospects of heavier receipts soon.



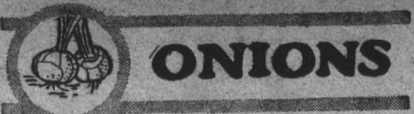
Markets	Choice round white-sacked	Medium Round white-sacked
Detroit	1.65	1.60
Chicago	1.15	1.10
Cincinnati	1.65	1.60
New York	1.45	1.40
Pittsburgh	1.50	1.45
Norfolk, Va.	1.25	1.20

The potato situation has been so well covered elsewhere in this issue that there is little to be said here. The remarkable feature of the situation is the firmness of the market and the high prices still being paid in spite of all the "bearish" talk. This should lend encouragement to every grower. It is the best evidence obtainable that the country at large expects to pay high prices for tubers this year, and that the producers expect they will.

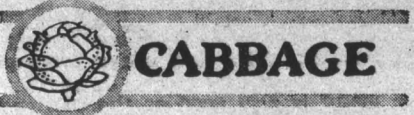
Let us give you a little quiet tip in the matter of grading your potatoes this year. As you doubtless know the government will require several million bushels of tubers for the uses of the army and navy and naturally it will want the best. No scrubs, scabs, or bruised potatoes will satisfy them. The government's judgment is pretty good, and if the crop is a little above previous years, it will certainly pay every grower to grade his potatoes carefully. The government suggests the following grading rules:

Round varieties of potatoes will be run over an inch and seven-eighths screen and long varieties will be run over an inch and three-quarters screen. The stock will be graded No. 1 and No. 2. The specifications for No. 1 stock are that an allowance be made of not to exceed 5 per cent for undersized potatoes and not more than 3 per cent of sunburned, cut, scabby or otherwise defective potatoes. On No. 2, an allowance of not to exceed 5 per cent, will be made for defective potatoes and the sizes shall not run smaller than an inch and a half. The percentage will be ascertained by weight.

—here's your chance to help
a movement that's bound to put extra dollars into the pockets of every farmer in Michigan. Add one new name to the M. B. F. list this week, some neighbor will thank you for showing him this copy.



There has been a continued falling off in the condition of the New York onion crop the last two weeks. At the end of July indications were for a 70 per cent crop but it is now placed at around 60 per cent for the state. In Massachusetts the crop is about the same as last year, possibly a little poorer. The size is small. Onions are selling on the Detroit market at \$1.75 per bushel. New York contracts are offered at \$1, but most of the farmers are refusing to sell at that figure. The market in general is very firm and growers may expect good prices.



The movement of the cabbage crop is now well under way, with prices varying on the principal markets from 50 to 85 cents per hundred pounds. The crop for the most part is of exceptionally good quality and the supply seems to be plentiful for all the present market demands.



Supplies continue light and demand vigorous for fancy barrel apples. Jonathans have been bringing on the Chicago market \$6 per barrel. Wealthies \$5 and Maiden Blush \$5.50, with No. 2 stock selling at \$3 to \$3.50. Michigan Duchesses were quoted at \$3.50 to \$4.00.

This year's apple crop calls for intelligent handling. The latest Government reports indicate a crop of about 190,000,000 bushels, a little below normal. Good prices are assured for all honestly packed first quality apples and also for honestly packed selected second grades, which Government experts say can be put into storage. When the crop is big it does not pay to store second grades, but

I think the Michigan Business Farming is O. K. Just what farmers needed.—Alex Walker, Roscommon county.

this year, despite the fact that America can not ship its usual \$2,000,000 barrels of apples abroad, because shipping space is precious, farmers should be able to get fair prices for all good apples at home.

Careless packing of poor quality fruit has always been one of the chief causes of market instability and unsatisfactory prices to the growers. This year the whole apple industry is co-operating to remove this market handicap.

The Government will encourage apple eating and apple storage and will discourage apple speculation that raises the prices abnormally.

To get the best of the crop to the market in prime condition it must be picked carefully at the time of maturity, promptly cooled in temporary storage, and then skillfully graded and packed. Second-grade fruit should not be marketed in bulk in near-by consuming centers, then it should be worked up into by-products along with the culls.

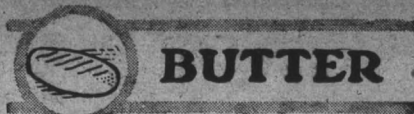
For the grower who desires instructions in apple packing the department of agriculture at Washington has information in bulletin form. These bulletins can be secured free by writing to the department.

PEACHES

New York reports a good demand for peaches, in fact the movement is better this year at this time than receivers ever remember. This is perhaps due to the fact that housewives are doing the bulk of their canning just now. Elbertas have been selling on Detroit market from \$2 to \$2.75.

HONEY

Receipts of honey are generally light and on the best markets the demand is strong. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan comb honey No. 1 has been selling at 20-21 cents on the Chicago market; fancy, 22 cents; extracted honey in tins, 14-14½ cents.



Butter remains steady at about the former range of prices. Receipts seem to be keeping up well. There is a good domestic demand in spite of the high prices although export demand has fallen off to nothing.

Extra creamery butter is quoted on the Detroit market at 42 1/2 cents. Fresh creamery firsts 41 1/2 to 42c per pound.



The egg market is firm at about the former range of prices. Michigan firsts are quoted at 37 to 39 cents per dozen Detroit with the consumer paying considerably more.

The scarcity of good fresh eggs is being felt and in some localities storage eggs are being offered freely.

Readers report the demand as somewhat lighter owing to the high prices. A comparison of food values however, together with prices of other commodities, show that eggs are still about as reasonable in price as any food.

Now is the time to give special attention to moulting hens which are to be carried over as layers. Proper feeding and attention will hasten the process and result in an earlier start on egg production.



LIVE WT.	Detroit	Chicago	Cinn.
Turkey	24-25	18-19	
Ducks	24-25	18-20	
Geese	16-17	16-18	
Springers	24-25	21-22	
Hens	24-25	20-22	

Just at the time of going to press the poultry market is somewhat congested and we advise holding up on shipments for a few days.

This condition no doubt has been brought about by the heavy shipments which arrived on all markets just previous to the Jewish holidays. The warmer weather, which arrived just at the commencement of the Jewish New Year season, made it necessary for commission men to push the sale of dressed poultry, resulting in a large carry over of live stock.

Present indications are that much immature and unfinished stock will be placed on the market this year, owing to the high cost of feed. The natural result will be fancy prices for well finished poultry of all kinds.

Ordinarily much material is allowed to go to waste, which, if properly prepared and utilized, might be used to good advantage as poultry food. By using this material the poultryman will not only be doing his bit in the conservation of food, but will be making the extra profit on the finished article.



GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Buffalo
Steers, good to prime	9 50-10 50	15 75-17 90	14 00-15 65
Steers, com. to fair	8 50-9 00	14 50-15 75	10 25-12 50
Heifers, good to prime	8 00-8 50	7 00-13 00	8 50-11 00
Cows, average	6 50-7 00	7 00-10 50	7 50-10 25
Canners, —Cutters	4 50-5 50	5 00-6 40	4 50-6 50
Bulls, average	7 25-7 50	7 25-7 50	7 50-9 50
Veal, fair to good	15 00-16 00	14 75-16 25	16 00-16 25

Fall shipments of live stock are in full swing, the receipts on the Detroit market on Thursday being 4,296 head. The quality is, however, far from good, and there has been plenty of good picking this week for the farmer wanting some to take back home and they had no difficulty in getting what they wanted. The general market for everything but canners was 15 to 35 cents a hundred lower than last week, but on Thursday nearly everything was cleaned up before dark.

In response to our question to crop reporters: "Has frost affected local markets, and if so, to what extent?" one reporter responds: "Not yet, they are going to put it over as long as they can."



GRADE	Detroit	Chicago	Bufalo
Heavy 240-290	18 00 18 50	17 50 18 80	18 75 18 90
Medium 200-240	16 50 17 00	17 70 18 70	18 50 18 70
Mixed 150-200	16 00 16 50	17 20 18 80	17 50 18 00
Packers 100-150	15 50 16 00	17 15 17 35	17 00 18 00
Pigs 100 down	16 50 16 75	13 50 17 50	17 75 18 00

The latest Government report shows a decrease of 5,665,000 hogs from last year. This great shortage, together with the increased demand, would seem to foretell much higher prices. The publication of the report brought some spirited buying.

Shippers will find a good market for all grades with a premium on medium weight, well finished stock.

Gleaned from Crop Reports

"The damage is greater than the buyers will admit. It is nearly complete, Missaukee county." Right here, we want to call every reader's attention to the fact that the buyers at the town the above report came from are today paying FIFTY-FIVE cents for potatoes. And the average price throughout the entire state today on potatoes is ONE DOLLAR AND FOUR CENTS. Furthermore, choice potatoes are selling on the DETROIT market at ONE DOLLAR AND SIXTY-FIVE cents. We can only say to our Missaukee county friends that we'd let our potatoes rot in a storage cellar before we'd sell a single peck to these buyers under the present circumstances.

"Beans will not average over 7 bushels per acre. Charlevoix county." Oh, this must be a mistake. The bean jobbers say Michigan will produce SEVEN MILLION bushels!

"The potato prices in Greenville have just doubled in one week. I don't know whether it was on account of frost or not, but something happened." Montcalm county. Looks as though there are SOME buyers who are waking up to the real potato situation.

To the Milk Producers of Michigan:

Greeting: Whereas, it is now fully demonstrated that the manufacturers and distributors of milk in Michigan are so thoroughly united and combined, and are so determined, for the sake of their own exorbitant profits, to hold the price of milk to producers at such a point that it will continue to entail a severe loss. And inasmuch as this, like every other legitimate industry is entitled to a price for its product that equals the cost of production and at least a small profit.

And, Whereas, recent investigation corroborates the evidence of all previous investigations in Michigan that milk production in Michigan is still being carried on at a loss of from 40c to 90c per hundred pounds (according to the different months); and except in a few localities where the buyers are willing to meet the demands of the Association for a living price, and recognizing that our patriotic duty is first to our country, then to our families and not at all to those combinations of capital that are today making extortionate profits, even to the destruction of this most vital food industry.

Therefore, we see at this time no way of putting this industry of milk production to that point where the distributor and manufacturer (for the sake of obtaining the product) will be willing to pay a price that equals the cost of production plus a 10 per cent. profit.

With the present high cost of labor, with the present price of dairy feeds, and with the recent frosts having destroyed at least one-third of the corn crop standing in Michigan September 1st, and with the probability that a large number of our farmer boys will be called to the colors on the first of January, making the farm labor problem more acute and severe than ever; good business judgment would suggest:

That every good dairyman begin to cull his herd at once, cut out every cow that is not an outstanding producer and every poor dairyman who is throwing his product on the market in an unwholesome, unsanitary and unprofitable way, understand that he is not only a menace to public health and to public prosperity, but understand also that he is standing in the way of live men who could better their condition if it were not for your lack of business methods.

For the sake of our soil fertility, upon which demands our future food supply, we would be glad to paint to you a glowing picture of the immediate future of the dairy industry, but combinations of capital and power have decreed that their pound of flesh must be exacted, even at the expense of the consuming public and a depleted vital industry.

We have viewed the situation from every angle in Michigan, in Washington and over the country at large and he have come to the conclusion that the best weapon of defense now is a decreased production. Consequently we appeal to you to do as other business men do under similar conditions: Reduce your output until the demand will warrant an increase again.—R. C. Reed, Field Sec'y Michigan Milk Producers Ass'n.

If our readers appreciate the service we are trying to render them we will appreciate the service they will render us in reading the advertisements in this issue and in mentioning Michigan Business Farming when answering them.

County Crop Reports

SCHOOLCRAFT—The farmers here are about done harvesting oats; the crop was fair. Spring wheat good and winter wheat not so good. Hard frosts from the 5th to the 8th will cut down potato yield considerable, also buckwheat and late peas. Some late planted potatoes almost a failure. The farmers' meeting at Gleaner hall on the 6th quite well attended.—E. J. S., Inwood.

MISSAUBIE (North Central)—Cutting corn and filling silos is the order of the day. Weather dry and warm. Wheat not all sowed yet; ground dry. Frost on Sept. 9th and 10th did great damage to potatoes, beans, corn and buckwheat.—H. E. N., Cutcheon.

CALHOUN (Northwest)—Farmers are getting ready to seed, weather is warm. Soil in fine shape. Farmers are busy threshing; wheat is good.—C. E. B., Battle Creek.

CLARE (East Central)—A heavy frost here last Sunday and Monday nights killed about everything. Seed corn will be hard to find next year, as there was none ripe. There is an occasional field of beans that were pretty well along before the frost but the most of them will not be worth harvesting. There will be more than the usual acreage of rye sown this fall. Most farmers who have not already got silos for their corn are putting them up as fast as possible. It has been quite warm here since the frost without any rain, and it is too dry to sow wheat.—C. P. W., Harrison.

OSCEOLA (Central)—Fine weather. Farmers are busy hulling clover. It is turning out about 4 bu. to the acre. No red clover hulled. Some oats threshed, 35 to 40 bu. per acre; spring wheat 13 to 25 bu. per acre; not much threshed yet. No rain for three weeks.—A. C. M., Mio.

ANTRIM (West)—Farmers are sowing fall grain. Weather warm and dry with cool nights. Farmers are selling wheat, rye and oats. Many farmers are building silos and filling them. A frost did much damage in this locality last week. Beans will be a short crop, about 3-4 of a crop.—H. H., Central Lake.

EMMET (East)—Everything hurt by frosts on low land but no damage on the high land. Corn was damaged 10 per cent, beans 30 per cent, cucumbers 50 per cent, and potatoes 5 per cent.—J. D. R., Pellston.

MIDLAND (East Central)—The frost of Sunday and Monday killed about half of the corn and beans in this part of the county. It is reported Mr. Myers has harvested and threshed \$1,400 worth of beans from eight acres. There is talk of several new silos to be built here the coming season on account of the failure to raise beans and the high price of cattle and sheep. There is a lot of tilling going on around here replacing open county ditches with large tile as it gives the farmer that much more land to work.—Midland.

MIDLAND (Southeast)—The farmers are getting their ground ready for wheat and rye. There are quite a few silos being built this fall.—J. H. M., Hemlock.

SAGINAW (Northwest)—Poor crops and early frost are causing many of the poorer farmers to contemplate moving to town where work is plentiful and wages good. We have had a good rain and wheat will generally be sown as soon as possible.—M. S. G., Hemlock.

OAKLAND (Southeast)—Farmers are fitting their ground for wheat. No wheat sown yet will commence sowing next week. Weather fine. Soil in good condition. Oats are being held for higher prices. Threshing very late this season. Oats are not yielding according to straw. Farmers are commencing to fill silos with the frosted corn, which will make poor ensilage because of its being so green. Feed will be very high this winter.—H. M. R., Birmingham.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Moist weather with two days of drizzling rain. Wheat sowing in all stages.—R. E. P., Greenville.

MONROE (Northeast)—We are busy preparing to sow wheat between threshing jobs. Weather is nice since the frost, ground has about the right amount of moisture. Farmers are too busy to sell much of anything. Small amount of hay moving. There will be a larger acreage of wheat sown than usual.—F. S., Newport.

PRESQUE ISLE (West Central)—Farmers are threshing grain; some is turning out good but about 75 per cent. of a crop. Not much going to market; there are a few potatoes going in for local trade is all; no demand, as most everyone has a few in their gardens. A few lambs to market yet and a few cattle.—D. D. S., Millersburg.

ALCONA (East)—Farmers are busy threshing; grain is turning out fairly good with the exception of peas which are very poor. A great many are trying to get wheat ground in shape to sow, the ground is very dry and hard to work. Nothing doing in the line of marketing crops. Potatoes and beans are late but are coming on. Potatoes will be a good crop and beans, if they get two weeks of good weather, will be a fair crop.—D. C., Lincoln.

NEWAYGO (East Central)—Farmers are cutting corn and filling silos since the frosts on the 9th, 10th and 11th of this month. Lots of wheat being put in; on one farm 75 acres will be sown. One farmer who has more than 50 acres of potatoes on his farm saved his crop from frost with manure and oil smudges.—C. B., White Cloud.

OTTAWA (Northeast)—The frosts of Sunday and Monday nights, Sept. 9th and 10th, certainly did much damage. Some late bean fields and most all of the garden truck, such as tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins were badly frosted. Potatoes hurt the least. Only potatoes and corn were hit hard on low lands. Farmers are fattening hogs for market with the little grain at hand merely to get rid of hogs. Corn crop looks pretty blue around here. Threshing and sowing wheat is the order of the day.—R. J. K., Conklin.

BAY (East)—The frost hit this section of the country light although it damaged some beans and corn. Farmers are beginning to harvest beans though a little green.—G. G., Linwood.

TUSCOLA (Northeast)—Frost of Monday and Tuesday nights did some damage to beans and corn but not as bad as at first thought. It will be about two weeks before beans will do for pulling. J. A. McG., Cass City.

MONTCALM (Southwest)—Farmers are doing very many different kinds of work at the present time as potatoes, corn and beans were struck by the frost and considerable damage done. Potatoes are not damaged seriously in this neighborhood as in the country around, especially in the northern part of the county. Corn was hit very hard in most parts and will average about 80 per cent. lost in Montcalm county except in central and southwestern parts, corn being very green and majority of farmers who own silos are filling now. Beans were struck very heavy. The heavy rains in this vicinity most of this week have prevented farmers from plowing for wheat. R. A. Scott of Fairplains township or Greenville, is the owner of a new Case tractor.—W. L., Greenville.

OGEMAW (West Central)—Farmers are busy threshing and getting their corn cut as it all froze. Difference of opinion as to damage to beans by frost.—W. N., West Branch.

GRAND TRAVERSE (South)—Farmers are busy threshing and plowing for wheat. Weather favorable, having had plenty of rain. Corn and beans are very poor; with two or three weeks good weather they will hardly average 3-4 of a crop. Potatoes are looking fine, no sign of blight. Pastures poor. Grasshoppers did some damage to meadows and spring seeding.—R. E. O., Buckley.

SAGINAW (Northeast)—Farmers are plowing for wheat, cutting corn and harvesting beans. Filling silos will soon begin as the frost struck the silo corn to some extent. Help is very scarce as a good many of the farm boys have been drafted and some have gone to the training camp. The soil is in good shape for fall seeding as the recent rains moistened it just right. The weather has been fine since the frost and with dry weather now the bean crop will soon be in the barns. Farmers are building silos, granaries and other small buildings.—J. A. McD., Hemlock.

HURON (Western)—Farmers are plowing for wheat and threshing. A few fields are sown to wheat. Oats and barley are turning out fairly well but wheat is yielding poorly and is badly shrunken. Beans need three weeks good weather to mature and would be only half a crop then. Weather has been cold and damp; had a slight frost. Farmers are not marketing anything to speak of. A few farmers are holding old beans for higher prices.—G. W., Elkton.

GRAND TRAVERSE (Northeastern)—Cliff Cook, one of our retired farmers, died this week. Weather is some warmer but need rain for fall plowing. Beans are beginning to ripen. A big grain elevator has been built at Williamsburg this summer. Some farmers here have bought a threshing machine. Quite a call for butter just now; prices good.—C. L. B., Williamsburg.

JACKSON (East Central)—It is a slack time among the farmers. The corn is not ripe, neither are beans or potatoes but we are trying to prepare the soil for wheat. The weather is fine this week, no rain and plenty of sunshine, just what we need to ripen the corn and beans. The 14th was the big day for the Jackson county fair, the attendance being 40,000.—B. T., Parma.

TUSCOLA (West Central)—Threshing about half done. Wheat and oats turning out good and of good quality. There will be a big acreage of wheat and rye sown this fall as we had a nice rain on September 13 and 14, putting the ground in good shape. Reese is to have a Farmers' co-operative elevator in the near future, as the farmers held a meeting Sept. 10, organized, elected officers and capitalized at \$30,000, and have begun selling stock with good success.—C. B., Reese.

MONTMORENCY (Central)—Frost has hurt all crops, potatoes cut in two; beans 3-4 gone, corn all gone, buckwheat 75 per cent. gone. Wheat is being planted but weather condition is too dry for fall seeding. No rain for three weeks. Considerable clover seed to hull in this county this year. Beans may go to from 3 to 5 bushels per acre if we get a rain and warm weather.—P. H., Atlanta.

GRAND TRAVERSE (North Central)—Farmers are threshing, fall plowing and sowing wheat and rye. The weather is nice, just enough rain to keep the crops growing good. Some cattle are being sold, buyers are paying .06 and .06 1-2 per pound on foot. Some early potatoes are being dug and sold but most farmers are holding for more money. The buyers are offering 75c to 80c. We grow a lot of potatoes and the last year and this year the bean acreage has increased to about double. Will have a good crop if we escape the frost about three or four weeks longer.

ST. JOSEPH (North Central)—The weather is most too cold to hurry the crops to maturity. A few light rains have freshened up the corn, potatoes and the pastures some. Not much grain being marketed just at present; people seem to be waiting to see what government control is going to do. There is considerable grain to be threshed yet.—B. K., Mendon, Mich.

ANTRIM (East Central)—Threshing season is on. Oats are averaging from 35 to 40 bushels per acre; wheat 15 to 20. Corn, beans and potatoes are still prospering. All wheat is in now and rye ground is being fitted. Early potatoes are ready for harvest but the yield is smaller than usual because of drouth at the time they were setting.—C. W. O., Kewadin.

VAN BUREN (West Central)—The condition of the weather is good for fall seeding. Not much wheat sown yet, although plowing is well under way. A hard frost visited this section Sunday and Monday nights, the 9th and 10th. Potatoes, corn and beans on high ground will be fair crops, but on low ground these crops will be almost complete failure. Our county agricultural agent, Mr. Tarrant, estimates the loss in this county to be near \$1,000,000.—H. D., Bangor.

OTTAWA (Northeast)—Farmers are still preparing for wheat; the light rains we have had lately have moistened the ground so it works up better. Heavy frost of Sept. 9-10 damages the crops quite a bit. Farmers are selling some wheat and quite a few are buying fertilizer.—J. P., Coopersville.

BAY (Northeast)—Farmers are fitting up wheat ground; some are cutting their frozen corn. Ground is quite hard for plowing but the rain will help. Other than selling hay farmers are not marketing their crops to speak of. They are holding oats for higher prices. Several of the farmers are building new silos and some are putting in additions to their barns.—J. E. McK., Pinconning.

LIVINGSTON (Northwest)—Have had plenty of rain since last report, also heavy frosts on the nights of 10th and 11th, badly damaging corn, late beans and late potatoes. Farmers are busy filling silos, threshing and sowing wheat.—G. A. W., Fowlerville.

LIVINGSTON (Northeast)—The frost of Monday night did thousands of dollars worth of damage in Livingston county. Some of the farmers who have silos are filling them to save the fodder. Late beans and potatoes are in a good many instances ruined. Some of the farmers are plowing their beans up. The farmers are having an ideal time to get the ground in condition for wheat. The ground is nice and can be kept in condition very easily.—F. H., Linden.

OAKLAND (Southwest)—Some farmers are sowing wheat; lots of them are sowing Red Rock wheat and Rosen rye. Farmers are cutting corn and filling silos as fast as possible on account of frost.—Milford.

ARENA (Northwest)—Farmers are threshing and some are plowing rye and wheat ground on sandy soil, the clay ground is impossible to plow on account of the dry weather. Some farmers are selling rye and wheat; some are holding rye for higher prices. About 100 farmers, wives and children were in attendance at the organization of a Community 13th-terment club at M. E. church last week. Ed. Redmond threshed 330 bushels of rye from ten acres.—A. D. F., Alger.

MONROE (East Central)—Most everyone plowing and disking for wheat. Lots of oats out yet. The rain of last week Wednesday night stopped field threshing until last Monday. Most all of the corn needs two or three weeks yet, and some five or six weeks. A car of Michigan Wonder wheat unloaded at Maybee today.

MECOSTA (East Central)—In my personal observation in driving across the county from west to east I am of the opinion the frost has done far more damage than was at first reported. In the first place if the frost had held off there wouldn't have been more than 75 per cent of an average crop for the very reason that the bean weevil have destroyed whole fields and they were being worked up and put in shape for seeding to wheat or rye before the frost came; furthermore 10 per cent of the beans were planted in July, some as late as the 8th. Those are worthless for any purpose. Late potatoes need rain to finish them up; nothing else is suffering. The ground is in fine shape for seeding, but not much being done in that line. The threshers are slow in getting around and that is going to make seeding very late, so many farmers depending upon their own seed to sow.—W. H. S., Remus.

CLINTON (Southwest)—Farmers are very busy plowing and fitting ground for wheat. I think Clinton county will have fully 30 per cent more wheat sown than a year ago. Not much produce being marketed at present. Prices are about the same except potatoes; would not be surprised if they sold down to 50 cents. Calvin Sexton's barn, Victor township, was burned during the electrical storm of last week, loss \$2,000 above the insurance. We are getting a little corn weather at present.—J. W. H., Grand Lodge.

KENT (Northeast)—The weather is very wet, making a bad time for bean harvest which is here. Some beans are pulled. Most early beans are ready to harvest. The late crop is more or less damaged, in some places entirely worthless by reason of frost. Lots of early potatoes are being marketed; some are even digging late potatoes with green growing tops and putting them on the market, which if left might grow from 25 to 50 per cent.—G. M. W., Greenville.

NEWAYGO (Northeast)—On the night of the 9th Jack Frost took a hand in fixing the price of beans, potatoes and buckwheat. The latter crop is a total failure with us. Corn badly damaged, some localities entirely lost. Farmers busy repairing and building new buildings off the winter. Not much being done on trunk line highways this year, owing to the shortage of laborers.—F. S., Newaygo.

OSCODA (Southwest)—Condition of weather is bad. Everything froze; beans and corn almost a total loss. Mr. Deeter had 200 bu. of oats off 8 acres.—M. E. C., Luzerne.

MECOSTA (Northwest)—The frost on September 9, 10 and 11 has done much damage in this section; corn is nearly all gone. Potatoes are damaged 50 per cent, and all other crops are damaged.—L. W., (Crop reports continued page 13)

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P. O. R. F. D.

County State St.

Remarks

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING

A Farm, Home and Market Weekly Owned and Edited in Michigan

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 1917

GRANT SLOCUM
FORREST A. LORD
D. L. RUNNELLS
ANNE CAMPBELL STARK
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WM. E. BROWN

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VETERINARY EDITOR
LEGAL EDITOR

Published every Saturday by the
RURAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

GEO. M. SLOCUM, Sec'y and Bus. Mgr.

Plant and Offices, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

OFFICE: DETROIT, CHICAGO, NEW YORK, ST. LOUIS, MINNEAPOLIS

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The Problem and the Key

LIFE IS A combination of problems. Difficulties are like the acid in which metals are tested; they try the temper of a man. He who possesses the virtues by which character and manhood are measured meets the trials of life with a brave heart and battles courageously for the things required to conserve his spiritual and moral qualities and his economic welfare.

Despite the stumbling blocks that the All-Wise has placed on man's pathway, God has been good. Not a day or a single hour passes by without contributing some evidence of His goodness. It shines forth with the morning sun; it gives the rain its tuneful melody; it rests in the soft lap of the snow that comes to protect the earth from the freezing blasts of winter; it lends a glow to the fire that crackles in the evening hearth; it is in the laughter of children, the fragrance of the flowers, the fruit of the trees.

Strong and true men recognize the goodness of God as manifested in nature, and laugh at the obstacles that stand in the way. Of such as these is the farmer, who seems to have been especially favored with the Creator's goodness. No man lives who is in as constant and intimate communion with the worth while things of life as he who treads the furrow and finds the realization of his rosiest dreams in the cultivation of the soil and kindred pursuits. But in much the same proportion that the farmer enjoys the blessings of life, he is harrassed by the problems of life. But fortified with the knowledge that all this is in keeping with the divine plan of the universe, the farmer is doubly prepared to meet the tremendous and well-nigh insurmountable difficulties that beset his business.

The problems peculiar to the conservation, preparation and cultivation of the soil, and the breeding and feeding of live stock are very many. In fact, farming seems to be a continual round of these perplexities. But agricultural colleges and experiment stations have been the means of analyzing and solving many of the problems that have to do with the production end of farming. And the farmer who has been wise enough to avail himself of this knowledge and put it into practical execution has probably overcome the majority of such difficulties as lie within the power of man to conquer.

The problems of production have been many, but they are being solved; the problems of marketing have been ten fold and we are just beginning to study them.

It is needless here to dwell upon the inefficiency, the waste, the injustice of the present scheme of marketing farm products. Not a year goes by that it does not take from the pockets of the farmers of the nation billions of dollars and hands them over to persons who have no legitimate claim to them. It is a system that clutches the farmer, body and soul, and from which there is no escape thru individual effort.

How to make the best of this system to the end that he may wrest from the speculators the largest possible proceeds to which he is entitled for the labor and money he has invested in the production of his crops, is the mighty problem that confronts the farmer of today. All his other problems sink into insignificance compared with it, and as an individual he is sadly unfitted to cope with the situation.

To know at what prices he should secure for his produce it is necessary that the farmer be in intimate touch at all times with crop and market conditions not only in his own state but in all the states of the union and even in the remote countries of the world. There are scores of influences which cause the fluctuation of market prices. By the very nature of his business the farmer is far removed from the ordinary sources of market information, and ignorant of

the great influences that may be at work to boost the price of his products on the primary markets, he often takes the entire fruit of his harvest to the market just a few weeks too early. The buyer, in close touch with the world's supply and demand, is eager to buy and when the price goes up he reaps the profits that should have gone to the man who grew the crops.

It was for the sole purpose of bridging the gap between the farmer and the great markets of the world that MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING was founded. Its mission is to place in the hands of the farmers the information which the buyers and speculators in farm products possess, but to which the farmer has had no means of access. By the aid of trained editors and crop reporters it gathers the crop and market news of the world and bring them to the farmer's doorstep. Knowing the anticipated production and visible supply of farm commodities and the real and probable demand for the year, we are able to ascertain with a surprising degree of accuracy the scale of prices that will prevail, and to advise our readers accordingly on the disposition of their crops.

MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING is now a reality. Thousands of farmers from Keweenaw to the Ohio line have shown their faith in the integrity of its publishers and in the value of the paper, by becoming subscribers. With this issue we start on our long road; our heads are high and our hearts are strong and the smile of optimism is upon our face. The opportunity to serve and be of tangible usefulness to the farmers of Michigan stretches out broadly before us. Backed by an army with sinews of strength and determination, we shall proceed carefully but fearlessly, never stopping, never swerving from our course, but straight on to the goal, finally to unlock for all times the gates of the great wall that shuts the farmer out from the market place and makes him a slave to speculators and a victim of a world's injustice.

Prices and Profits

TWENTY THOUSAND grain growers of the middle west have "struck" for higher wheat prices. They are dissatisfied with the price the government has set upon the 1917 crop, and this week are holding a giant mass meeting at St. Paul to discuss their grievances and formulate a plan to enlist the sympathetic attention of the government. President Wilson and Food Administrator Hoover have been invited to attend the conference.

Coincident with the fixing of a maximum price on 1917 wheat and automatically a maximum profit for the growers, was the action of the Senate in passing the revenue bill containing a ridiculously small tax on the excess war profits of industrial institutions. Patriotic impulses might have conquered any earlier tendency of the producers to voice their disapproval of the inclination of the government to interfere with their legitimate profits, had our "patriotic" Senate shown a desire to put a proportionate check upon the prices of other commodities, thereby distributing the burden of war more equitably. But the almost total disregard of the inequalities existing in the sundry price-fixing proposals of the administration and the tax levies as finally agreed upon in the revenue bill, has given the growers complete justification for their present stand.

As if in reproof of the growers' attitude, attention has been called to the fact that the price fixed by the government is over twice as much as that received by the growers before the outbreak of the war. Nothing but ignorance of the many factors entering into the scheme of production could excuse the total disregard of the fact that the farmer is compelled to pay two or three times as much for the raw material and machinery to produce his wheat as he paid before the war. The peculiar irony and injustice of the whole situation is clearly revealed in the light of the fact that the farmer is helping to pay the huge war profits of the steel and machinery manufacturers for whose welfare Congress has recently shown such a charitable and fatherly concern.

Yes, it is quite true—the PRICES that farmers are receiving today for some of their products are from 20 to 100 per cent higher than before the war. But their PROFITS have not increased proportionately. Far from it. As a matter of fact there is some question as to whether many farmers will be able to realize a profit this year on \$2 wheat. So far as the wheat growers are concerned the law of supply and demand has been knocked into a cocked hat, and regardless of the heights to which their production costs may soar, they must sell their wheat at the stipulated price or not at all.

On the other hand—the PRICES of many manufactured articles have increased from 100 to 500

per cent over three years ago. At the same time, the PROFITS of the manufacturers have increased from 200 to 2,000 per cent, for unlike the farming business, increase in production in industrial lines is usually accompanied by largely increased profits. Despite the huge profits that these concerns are piling up, and of which the government is admittedly cognizant, no action is taken to fix a maximum price upon their products either for the benefit of the American or allied consumer; neither does Congress propose to take over even a reasonable share of their profits for the expenses of the war.

Here's the whole situation in a nutshell: When the government decrees in what manner the farmer shall bear a part of the war burden, it talks loudly of PRICES; when it asks the war supplies makers how much they will contribute to lighten the burden of war, it hints softly of PROFITS.

Getting Acquainted

WE WISH every member of our editorial staff could step right out from these printed pages, shake hands all 'round with our readers and sit down on the back door step for a little friendly chat. We just hanker to stroll the gateway of every reader's home these fine fall evenings, grab his hand and say: "Hello, Bill, how's everything? Where's the folks?" And then we'd like to follow you all over the farm and let you do the talking. Say, folks, if we could just visit you that way once every year and learn of your hopes and disappointments and trials and troubles and successes and failures and griefs and mirths, we'd know just exactly the kind of a farm paper to give you. But it can't be done in just that way. Nevertheless, we must get acquainted. Probably no one suspects that this issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING was edited by over a hundred people, yet such is the fact. The names that appear at the head of this page represent only a handful of those who each week contribute to these columns. We want to tell you particularly about the several hundred men and women in every county of the state who are giving their time willingly and without compensation to write to us each week about the crop conditions and market prices in their respective localities. We cannot underestimate the value of this service to us and to our readers, and we feel that every one of our crop reporters is just as important a member of the editorial staff as tho he or she sat right here in the editorial offices. This loyal staff of crop reporters are necessary to the success of Michigan Business Farming; without them our efforts would be very poor, indeed; with them and their continued support, we confidently believe that we can make a publication which will represent to all farmers of the state a value that can be measured in dollars and cents. Therefore, when you read this paper each week just remember that much of it is written by farmers and farmers' wives who are trying in this way to do their "bit" for the cause of business farming. This simple introduction to the folks at this end who have consecrated themselves to a cause they love will suffice for the present. Let us hope that with the passage of time we shall become very much better acquainted.

Look Out for the "Bears"

THIS IS the season of the year when the market "bears" come forth from their summer hiding and stampede the market places. The "bulls" which have held sway during a long period of diminished supply and increased demand scatter before the onslaughts of the "bears," and prices, which have been going steadily upward, suddenly pause and topple from their high eminence.

The "bears" are particularly active and ferocious right now. They are lurking everywhere. Their influence may be seen in every crop report issued by the government, in every "forecast" of the "bumper" crops that are sure to flood the market this fall. Grain dealers, potato buyers, bean jobbers, and a score of other speculators in farm products are all lending a helping hand to "bear" the markets and pave the way for hasty selling and low prices to the producer.

Nothing short of a Noah's flood could drown the happy optimism of the bean jobbers. Blight and frost have visited the choicest bean fields of the state, causing total loss in some counties and a ten to twenty per cent damage in others. Nevertheless, the bean men stick loyally to their original forecast, and promise glibly that Michigan will put 8,000,000 bushels of beans on the market this year.

Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan potatoes suffered an average damage of over 25 per cent by the recent frosts, while Maine and New York crops have been hit hard by both frosts and late blight, some reports estimating a 50 per

cent loss. Despite all this, crop prognosticators and potato buyers continue to "bear" the market with their glowing stories of the stupendous crop to be harvested this year.

Look out for the "bears." Don't get caught in their clutches. They're not dangerous if you know how to handle them. Let them gambol at will for the next sixty days while the farmers sit tight on their crops.

The Harvest Time

THERE is just a bit of melancholy in this changing fall air that hints of the approaching harvest season. Already many fields have felt the touch of frost; leaves of corn have taken on a yellowish hue and hang limp and seemingly ashamed among companions that still

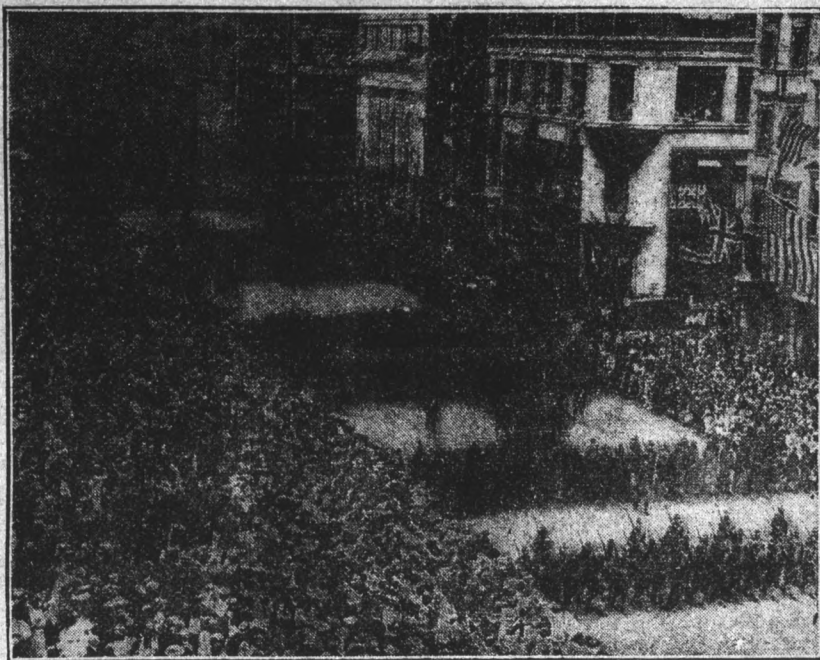
nod green defiance to fickle old Jack Frost who lurks in the gloom of these mid-September nights; bean vines droop black and lifeless to the ground, and even the hardy potato plant bears witness of the early freeze. Very soon now the early imps of winter will gather the crops into their chilly bosoms and clothe them with the final shroud. Then the harvest! Potatoes to dig, beans to pull, corn to cut, and fruit to pick. Out in the fields while yet the frost glistens on vine and tree and house-top in the faint rays of approaching dawn, the farmer goes, the tang of the morning air filling his heart with an eager zest for his job. With his crops, the farmer harvests the hopes and fears that he planted with the seed in springtime. If Mother Nature has been kind, his highest hopes

bear fruit; but all too often the fears of planting time become the failures of harvest time. The farmer is like one who casts his bread upon the waters of a limitless sea, the storms and turmoil of which he cannot know. His crops run the gamut of drouth, flood, blight and frost, all of which he fears but against whose coming he is powerless to prepare. Happy is the farmer who goes forth at last to harvest crops that are bountiful and gather them safely into bin and barn and cellar. And doubly happy is he when in the final accounting of the twelfth-month labors, after the harvest is over and the marketing is done, he finds his efforts crowned with deserved success and a fitting recompense for the trials and worries of the year.

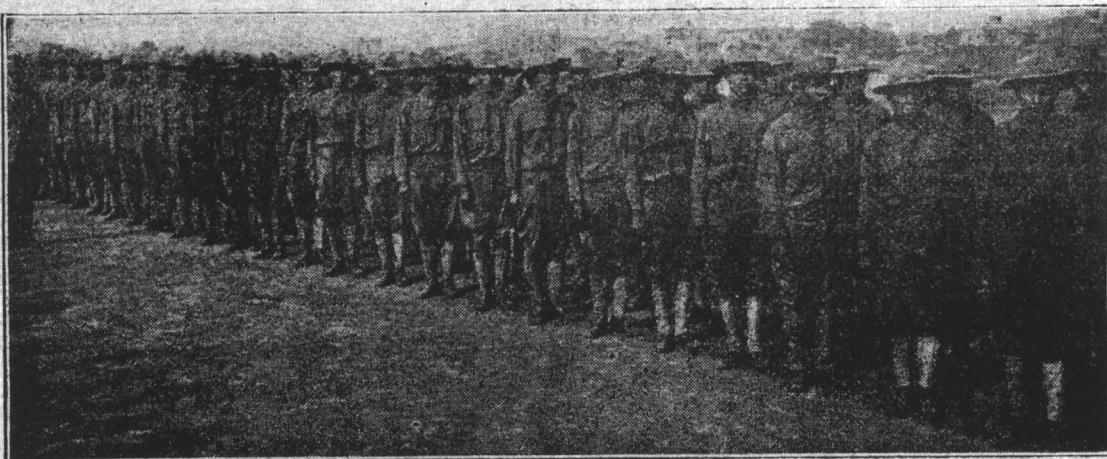
With the Kodaker and Cartoonist



War is a great leveler of caste and social position. It is no-respecter of persons. This very ordinary looking chap is Cornelius Vanderbilt, taking a few minutes respite from duty at the Spartanburg, S. C., cantonment. Many of the scions of wealthy families are today peeling potatoes at the training camps.



Three million persons were thrilled by the tramp, tramp, tramp of 30,000 soldier boys in the great parade of the New York National Guard preliminary to their departure to the Spartanburg camp. A similar demonstration was held in Detroit this week when that city's first draft army departed for Battle Creek.



Indian company to fight for Uncle Sam. Many of the members are direct descendents of the Indian chieftains who led the fight against Gen. Custer and annihilated his command.



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The Peace Terms.



Interned German sailors from the "Kronprinz Wilhelm" spend their time making German toys.



A battery of British guns pouring shells into the German lines in Flanders.



President Wilson leading Washington's draft parade, an impressive demonstration in honor of the young men called from the Capitol City to defend the nation's honor. One cannot help making a mental comparison of the President's simple street attire and the gold laced and medal-bespangled dress of European monarchs and diplomats.

Everyday Garden, Field and Orchard Helps

GREATER NEED THAN EVER TO UTILIZE WASTE

Assistant Secretary Vrooman of the United States Department of Agriculture recently startled the country with the statement that "our billion-dollar manure waste is the world's greatest economic leak."

"This is not a mere wild guess," he continues, "but a very shrewd and conservative estimate based upon reliable statistics. It has been found that each horse or mule produces annually \$27 worth of manure (based upon commercial fertilizer values); each head of cattle \$20 worth; each hog \$8 worth. Recent investigations indicate that at least one-half of this great wealth of fertilizing material is lost."

On the dairy farm, the best and cheapest way is to draw the manure directly to the field and spread it as fast as it is made. If plenty of good absorbent bedding is used, the most valuable or liquid portion of the manure can be saved. Rain, after the manure is spread upon the land, only helps to carry the fertilizing materials where they can do the most good—provided, of course, that the land is reasonably level.

There are few farms, however, where all the manure can be handled in this way. Very often, heaps of manure accumulate beside the barns from which the most valuable constituents leach away. Of such manure, Prof. Van Slyke of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station said: "Taking into consideration both the amount and the availability of the plant food leached from stable manure, it is not an exaggeration to say that two-thirds of the plant-food value is leached away from much of the stable manure used on American farms."

The best method of storage is in a manure pit. A pit 3 feet deep, 12 feet long and 6 feet wide will enable the average farmer to properly preserve the extra barnyard manure until he can find time to haul it to the field. Such a pit may readily be constructed with farm labor of cement, or of hollow tile with a thin coat of cement to preserve seepage. The cost will be trifling in proportion to the saving effected.

The manure pit should be so located that the liquid portion of the manure can be drained from the stable to the pit. Since "about one-half of the value of the nitrogen and two-thirds that of the potassium are in the urine," according to Van Slyke's "Fertilizers and Crops," a big saving can be effected in this way.

Barnyard manure, considered as a plant food is not a well-balanced ration. It is high in nitrogen (ammonia) and low in phosphorus. If used freely, it is apt to force a rank growth of foliage without a corresponding increase in the grain yield. So it is a good plan to sprinkle acid phosphate over the manure pit at the rate of 40 to 50 pounds per ton of manure. This will help keep the flies from breeding in the pit. The acid phosphate will absorb some of the liquid manure. The free ammonia, instead of escaping, will be changed into ammonium phosphate and ammonium sulfate—both valuable fertilizers. Manure so treated is not apt to heat and will make a much better balanced fertilizer than will clear manure.

Farm manure adds organic matter which is needed by most of our upland soils. It also favorably affects the bacterial life of the soil. The benefits from even a light dressing of manure are noticeable for several years. Indeed, a given amount of manure will accomplish much more when spread thinly than when concentrated on a smaller area.

If there should not be enough manure to cover the entire acreage to be sown to fall grains, use 200 to 400 pounds of complete fertilizer to the acre. Or if that can not be had, use a fertilizer containing 2 to 3 per cent. of ammonia and a high percentage of phosphoric acid. Such fertilizer may most readily be sown broadcast at

seeding time with a wheat drill carrying a fertilizer attachment. Spring dressing of wheat with 200 to 300 pounds of suitable fertilizer may readily increase the yield from 5 to 13 bushels per acre.

ORCHARD COVER CROPS AND FERTILIZING

My experience with orchard cover crops covers a period of better than ten years, with most all kinds of fruits, many of which are only planted in sufficient quantity for family use. I have about thirty acres of orchard on my farm at present, have just gradually brought it up from a small family orchard, by planting a little every year.

Much of the land of my orchard is entirely too rough for regular cultivation, consequently I have resorted to cover crops and mulching with manure and other materials.

My best trees are in a field that has never been plowed since the trees were set out. A blue grass field, with heavy mulches of manure and other litter about the trees, and the grass is left for a cover crop, and pigs run in there early in the season and also late in the fall. When the grass is very luxuriant I often turn some sheep in for a short time, but have found that it is better usually to just let pigs go in there. Other parts of my orchard lay better, less rolling, and

Most farmers begin cutting corn fodder too late in the season. If rainy weather or something else happens to stop the cutting for a few days, frost is very to catch and ruin all that is not cut, or else if it is earlier corn it gets too dry and the stalks are too woody and therefore not palatable. The weather is more apt to turn suddenly hot for a day or two during late cutting, and take all the sap out of the stalks before one gets the desired amount of fodder cut, in which case a poor and almost worthless grade of roughage is secured.

My experience has shown that early fodder cutting holds many advantages over the late cutting. Its tenderness of stalk causes it to cut a great deal easier, the blades are not so dry and harsh that they scratch the face and hands and wear out the clothing.

There is considerable difference of opinion about the tying of the shocks. I see some farmers make large shocks and unless the wind is blowing, or there are signs of showers, they allow the shocks to stand without tying for two or three days, which they claim removes the danger of moulding by heating caused by the blades being pressed too closely together. Sure if conditions of weather stay ideal, this will insure the fodder to cure out perfectly and remain in that condition till ready to be fed when its nearness to summertime greenness makes it one of the most palatable and profitable forms of roughage the farmer can procure for winter stock feeding.

THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR

Reminders of the Things That Should be Done On the Farm This Week

1. If your bean fields are beginning to ripen this week, locate the portions of the field least affected by bean diseases. These vines should be pulled separately, stored by themselves, threshed by fall sometime this winter and put away in some dry, cool place until planting time next spring.
2. It is not too late to sow rye. Unlike wheat rye will winter well even tho it doesn't get a very large growth. Wheat requires sufficient growth to partially cover the ground and protect its roots in hte winter by preventing snow from blowing off the field.
3. Inspect the ensilage cutter and get it ready for business. The weather as forecasted by Mr. Foster for Michigan Business Farming promises another visit from Jack Frost altho we hope he is wrongly informed. Anyway get the ensilage cutter ready in case he again hits the nail on the head.
4. Every tool on the farm that is out doors and will not be used again this fall, should be placed in the shed at once. In fact there are many tools on the average farm that ought to have been put away weeks ago, but the farmer has neglected to do so. Show your business management and have them put away this week.
5. Sow a cover crop in the orchard. Rye is considered the best crop for this purpose and is extensively used for that purpose, not only in the orchard but in many fields from which a cultivative crop has been removed.
6. Bring up the sheep and lambs at night. Sheep dogs begin to run more or less at night during the fall months, especially if there is a streak of hound blood in the "cur" and he runs a rabbit into pasture field in which there are sheep. It will be time profitably spent to bring the sheep up every night.
7. If you have not already become a regular subscriber to Michigan Business Farming, then do so at once. If you are a subscriber, then help the cause of business farming by handing your copy after reading to some other farmer who ought to be equally as interested in the marketing end of his game as you are.

on this I plow more or less each year and then seed to peas, rye, etc., and plow them down and go with the mulch as far as I can get. The rye is best for winter protection, and the peas best for summer, while the peas add nitrogen and other elements to the soil, and also make a humus when plowed down; the rye adds nothing, but helps to hold what there is there through the floods of rain and freezing and thawing, and the mulch of manure and other litter furnishes fertilizers and stores and holds moisture for the future use of the trees.—R. B. Rushing, Ill.

WHAT IS BEST TIME TO CUT CORN FOR FODDER

Those who are fortunate enough to have silos in which to store their corn fodder need little advice from any source as to the best time to cut the fodder, because it is a well known fact that corn must reasonably mature in order to make first-class silage. However, it is a somewhat different proposition when it comes to the matter of cutting and curing fodder in the shock to make an ideal feed that will be palatable for both horses and cattle, and there is considerable difference of opinion among farmers and stockmen as to the best time for cutting fodder.

However, I am not exactly taken with the idea of leaving the shocks for a period of a day or two without trying in order that they may cure out. It has been my experience that there is too much danger of having them blown over by sudden showers that come occasionally and do damage before you hardly know it. I have found it a much better plan to make the shocks small say not more than 10 hills square and tie them rather loosely at first, then after a couple of days they may be tied tighter, and they will not blow down if the wind does blow hard.

I see some farmers cut and leave the fodder lying on the ground a day or two and then shock up. I have tried this myself, and find that the sudden rains that come when we think not, splashes considerable dirt on the fodder, which is very objectionable. While I admit that a day or two drying reduces the water content very greatly, therefore lessening the labor of handling, and it is just like the method of not tying, is ideal if the weather stays ideal. But, usually do not trust the weather. There is considerable less waste to this early cut fodder since the stalks are in ideal condition for feed and they will be almost entirely devoured by both horses and cattle, and sheep are fond of good fodder also and consume lots of it in cold weather.

BRIEF POINTERS OF VALUE TO BUSINESS FARMERS

Starve, trap or poison rats. It is especially important at this time to save the food rats waste.

It is essential to feed a considerable proportion of beef scrap in the mash if a wheatless ration is used for egg production.

The sows that are to farrow this fall should be kept on pasture and have plenty of water and shade.

Remember that the question is not whether you personally may feel that you can afford to waste food; the point is that the nation can not afford to have any food wasted by anybody.

There will probably be some difficulty in harvesting the apple crop with volunteer workers, many of whom have had no experience at the work. Perishable fruit must be handled carefully to prevent injury to the skin. Bruises later cause decay when the apple goes to storage.

Special care to place the soil in good condition in preparation to planting wheat and rye will go a long way toward assuring the production of bumper crops of these grains which the Department of Agriculture hopes to see harvested next year.

Good breeding ewes are selling high; lower prices are unlikely. With probable high prices for both mutton and wool in the future, the farmer who understands sheep and will properly care for them from the start has good prospects for success.

Pigs which were farrowed early and are about six months old at this time, may profitably be finished now and rushed off to market. The early fall market has been the highest for a number of years because the number of well-finished hogs arriving at this season is limited.

Prepare to store winter apples. They may be kept in the storage room in the basement of the house, in the outdoor cellars, or in banks and pits. Conditions suitable for the keeping of potatoes answer fairly well for apples.

If wheat and rye follow a cultivated crop which has been kept free from weeds, it is best not to plow the land. The land may simply be disked and harrowed just before seeding.

Pasturing of the brood sow and her litter as late in the fall as possible keeps them in good health. The pigs will make satisfactory gains and there will be a decided saving of grain.

Plowing kills wireworms by destroying their food supply and interfering with their preparations for winter.

A dry, well ventilated place, such as an attic, furnishes a good storage place for onions in winter as slight freezing does not injure them, provided they are not handled when frozen.

POTATO "DON'TS"

- 1—Don't injure the selling and storing quality of your potatoes by careless digging.
- 2—Don't glut the fall market and injure your winter market by placing large quantities of ungraded stock on the market at harvesting time.
- 3—Don't ship any frost-damaged potatoes. It is disastrous.
- 4—Don't demoralize the already overburdened transportation facilities by shipping cull potatoes. Unless potatoes are extremely high in price, culls will not bring transportation charges.
- 5—Don't overlook the advantages of "machine sizers." They are proving of great value in many shipping sections.
- 6—Don't expect machine sizers to grade for quality—only human hands can grade out the defective tubers.
- 7—Don't mix No. 1 and No. 2 grade potatoes. There are customers who desire each separately, but do not want them mixed.
- 8—Don't overlook the potato grades recommended by the United States Food Administration.

LIVE STOCK ON THE FARM

POULTRY, SHEEP AND SWINE DAIRYING BEEF PRODUCTION BREEDING PROBLEMS

HOW TO AVOID COSTLY AND POT-BELLIED PIGS

Haven't you been perplexed because the pigs you have tried to feed so well grew only in the middle, while each end seemed to become smaller?

Well, I have, and for the life of me, for a long time I couldn't then tell why, nor did anyone seem to be able to suggest a remedy. "They're just simply 'pot-bellied'" was the statement of those older than the one who had been given a few runts for his "very own." Since then our folks have learned better, but still there are people who raise the pot-bellied kind.

Not a great while ago I looked at a bunch of shoats whose owner said they hadn't done well. Nearly all of them carried a middle piece about fifty per cent. greater in size than either end. They were a sorry-looking lot of runty, scurvy things and out of condition generally. There were thirty-one of them and upon investigation I found they had been fed on slop consisting almost wholly of skim milk and this diluted with water. They were compelled to drink about fifty gallons of this dilution to get about twenty gallons of skim milk. Of this they were fed once a day. Corn was too high-priced to feed to growing pigs, he said.

When the skim milk was brought home from the creamery about 9 a. m., and the stuff diluted until there was almost two gallons per pig and then poured into the trough, it was a sight to see the half-starved animals fill up. They would drink as long as they could stand, then they would sit down on their haunches with noses still in the trough and gulp it down as pigs would that had had nothing to eat since the same hour of the day previous. They reminded one of small balloons on four sticks.

They needed the water by itself and the skim milk in about three feeds, and a little corn or meal or middlings or all three in proper amounts. They were compelled to overload with a lot of milk diluted with water that spread out the middle and furnished nothing with which to make comparative growth.

In feeding young animals nature's way should be strictly observed.

Sweet milk, as it comes from the mother's udder, is nature's way to feed the young. The milk goes direct from the place of secretion to the place of digestion without any chance of contamination. By nature's plan there is no chance for it to become sour or in any way tainted, and is then the most digestible and contains different elements of growth nearest to the right proportion; not only all this but it is at the best temperature to promote thorough assimilation, and to convert all of its nourishing properties into the various elements of growth that go to make a well-balanced thrifty animal, but when we attempt to substitute for nature's food we are too liable to drift entirely away from nature's way of feeding.

Young animals that are permitted to run with their mothers until they wean themselves seldom become pot-bellied, as the change from milk to solid food is so gradual that the digestive machinery becomes much more accustomed. Then when they are weaned they are capable of taking foods of the right kind and making rapid and cheap gains.

Heavy feeding, however, at long intervals and indigestion, (if the feed is right) are the two principal causes of the abnormally large stomachs in young animals. When it is fed in a quantity or quality that it cannot digest, decomposition soon follows, producing gas on the stomach, which distends the stomach. The food is wasted as it is not digested, and the animal grows but little even though he is consuming a large amount of good food.—R. B. Rushing, Ill.

—will YOU do this much?

get some farmer to sign the coupon on the back cover. No need to ask him for his dollar, he'll send that later.

Veterinary Department

G. H. CONN, D. V., Editor

PLEASE GIVE me a balanced ration for Holsteins weighing about 1,000 pounds. Have alfalfa hay and silage and can buy cotton seed meal at \$40, distiller's dried grains at \$38, bran at \$30 and middlings at \$32 per ton.—C. W., Hastings.

You can feed to each cow daily from 30 to 40 pounds of silage and what alfalfa she will clean up handily and when cows are producing under 15 pounds of milk they need very little else in the way of feed. The following would make a good ration, distiller's dried grains 100 pounds; bran 200 pounds middlings 150 pounds. Where the cows are in good shape and producing ordinarily they should receive one pound of this mixture to every four pounds of milk they are producing; where they are producing quite heavily and they are not in extra good condition they should receive one pound of this mixture to every three pounds of milk.

WHAT DOES it mean to pasteurize milk? How long will it then keep in bottles? Will it make good ice cream? Would like to keep milk until ready to make ice cream.—A. J. P., Port Huron.

Pasteurization is a process of making liquids free from harmful germ life. Dr. Pasteur perfected the process by which milk is now made germ-free without injuring its physical properties.

There are two systems by which milk is pasteurized, the holding system which is preferable in which milk is heated to 145 degrees F. and held at this temperature for 20 minutes and then cooled. By the flash system it is heated to 165 to 175 degrees and cooled immediately.

Pasteurized milk will keep much longer than whole raw milk since the lactic and putrefactive germs are killed. It should not be kept longer than 14 hours.

It will not improve the flavor or the body of the ice cream and will not enable you to keep the milk much longer than you would be able to do if you would produce the milk under sanitary conditions and then keep it cool.

WE HAVE a horse that is not doing well. He is eight years old and seems to eat good but his appetite seems to be irregular. What is wrong with him and what can we do for him?—F. C., Newberry.

This horse is no doubt afflicted with chronic indigestion, or commonly called dyspepsia. The first thing that should be done with him is to have his teeth looked at by a qualified veterinarian and if they need any attention they should be attended to at once. Then get the following: Fluid extract of nux vomica 2 ounces and dilute hydrochloric acid 4 ounces and put them in a one-pint bottle and fill the bottle with water. Of this give one tablespoonful on the tongue with a dose syringe three times each day.

HAVE A young driving mare that has some speed and in working her we hurt her left front leg. She is quite lame and around the tendon about half way between the ankle and knee it is very full and while she walks almost sound when she trots for a short distance she gets so lame that she can hardly go. Can you tell us what ails her and what to do for her?—F. H. Birch Run.

This is a condition that is termed bowed tendons. It is an inflammation of the tendon and of the sheath that it works through. Very few horses ever fully recover from this condition so that they can be used for speed with any safety. Get antiphlogistine and put her leg up in this each night and cover it well with cotton and bandage it so as to retain all the heat. This should be applied as hot as possible without blistering the leg and then after it is removed in the morning use the following liniment, equal parts of tincture of iodine, oil of white cedar, glycerine and alcohol. Use this again about an hour before doing the leg up at night.

WE HAVE some shoats that we are feeding and there has been several of them that have been vomiting the past several days but none of them have died and they all eat all right. What could this be and what can be done for it?—E. T., Vermontville.

It may be possible that this is simply acute indigestion, and is no doubt brought about by some error in feeding. If we knew just how you were feeding we might be able to tell you what it was. It may be that you are feeding them some spoiled feed of some kind. Clean up the feed lot and all the troughs and examine everything carefully to see if you cannot find something that is spoiled that is causing this trouble. Occasionally spoiled middlings and shorts are the cause of such conditions.

CORN SUBSTITUTES NOW VALUABLE FOR HOG FEED

Farmers can reduce the amount of corn fed to hogs by substituting other feeds for corn. This is especially desirable with high-priced corn and its increased need for human consumption. Pastures and forage crops properly used can reduce the corn and other concentrated feeds fed to hogs from one-half to one-fourth. There are, moreover, many feedstuffs which can be substituted for the other portion of corn. Their use will be determined largely by their availability, relative feeding value, and cost per pound as compared with corn. Hog feeders, by getting in touch with the feed-manufacturing industries in their section, may discover profitable substitutes for corn. Feeds unavailable for human consumption should be used as far as possible.

A number of substitutes for corn with suggestions for their use are given below. The feeding value, methods of feeding, and the highest relative cost of a pound of each feed to a pound of corn at which profitable substitution can occur are given for each feed. For example: A pound of feed with a feeding value four-fifths that of corn must cost at least one-fifth less before substitution is profitable purely from a monetary standpoint.

Oats after crushing have three-fifths the feeding value of corn. They can be substituted profitably for corn, therefore, when a pound of crushed oats costs two-fifths less than a pound of corn. In a fattening ration, oats should not compose more than two-thirds of the ration during the early part of the feeding period and should gradually be reduced until during the last 4 or 5 weeks, they are entirely omitted from the ration. Oats are excellent for adding bulk to a ration and are especially good for brood sows.

Barley when crushed is an excellent feed for swine and can be substituted entirely for corn, even when it costs the same per pound.

RYE when costing nine-tenths as much as corn per pound can be substituted for corn in the ration. It should be fed ground or crushed, and is best fed as a slop.

Wheat shorts or middlings are a by-product of the milling of wheat. While a feed high in protein, it can be substituted for corn when one and one-tenth the cost of corn. It is best as a nitrogenous supplemental feed and when forming but a part of the ration. Owing to its heavy, pasty nature, if fed alone for a long while digestive troubles are liable to occur. No protein supplement is necessary for a ration of shorts, though lime, in which shorts are low, should be supplied.

Millet can be substituted for corn when one-fourth cheaper per pound. Millet should be ground and fed always with a rich protein supplement. For fattening hogs in cold weather it is not so good and produces a soft pork.

Cull beans can be substituted for corn if below the cost of corn. Beans make soft pork and always should be cooked and salted before feeding. It is better to substitute the beans for but one-half the corn and so prevent soft pork and increase the gains.

There are many wastes and by-products from industries, such as canning factories, which are of feeding value to swine. It should be remembered that, with bulky by-product feeds such as distillery grains, brewers' grains, and pea cannery refuse, the hog, owing to his digestive system, cannot utilize these as well as cattle and sheep.

When the prices of corn and introgenous by-product feeds such as bran, peanut meal, soy-bean meal, velvet bean meal, linseed oil meal, tankage, fish meal, etc., are relatively close, a larger amount of these concentrates high in feeding value can be fed and partially substituted for corn. This will naturally increase the percentage of protein in the ration.

\$384 Per Acre Net on His Potato Crop

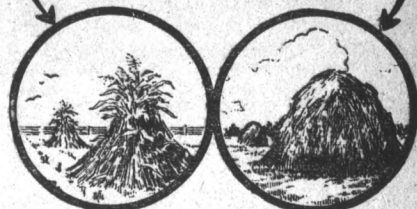
Was realized by Mr. W. S. Cone, of Yelvington, Fla., for the spring season of 1917. Corn was then planted and net \$35 an acre. If Mr. Cone wanted to, he could grow a fall crop of potatoes, but he prefers to harvest a ton or more per acre of fine crab-grass hay, which he can sell for \$15, with no expense except mowing.

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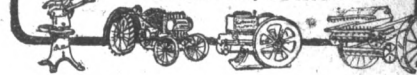
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ROSEN RYE:—The new selected and improved rye, for immediate shipment. We obtained our seed from The Michigan Agricultural College, and have Genuine Rosen Rye for sale. Write for prices. Strachan & Son, Ionia, Mich.

BUY Prices have hit bottom Book for fall shipment

Cotton Seed Meal Ask for cat-lot prices. MILL.

J. E. Bartlett Co., Jackson, Mich. NOW

Special low price on pigs middlings and tankage

THE B-FLAT Trombone" is the name which Average Jones gives to his latest adventure. It is an absorbing tale, with an old moral but new situations, in which a man's sins find him out after many years and bring about his downfall.

Average Jones

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

ARE YOU reading the Average Jones stories? Do you like them? Another will appear in an early issue of MICHIGAN BUSINESS FARMING. Tell us on a postcard if you want to have a story in each issue of the paper.

THREE men sat in the Cosmic Club discussing the question: "What's the matter with Jones?" Waldemar, the oldest of the conferees, was the owner, and at times the operator, of an important and decent newspaper. His heavy face wore the expression of good-humored power, characteristic of the experienced and successful journalist. Beside him sat Robert Bertram, the club idler, slender and languidly elegant. The third member of the conference was Jones himself.

"Excuse my interrupting," said the newcomer. "Just one question. Waldemar. Who's going to be the nominee?"

"Linder."

"Linder? Surely not! Why his name hasn't been heard."

"It will be."

"His Federal job?"

"He resigns in two weeks."

"His record will kill him."

"What record? You and I know he's a grafter. But can we prove anything? His clerk has always handled all the money."

"Wasn't there an old scandal—a woman case?" asked the questioner vaguely.

"That Washington man's wife? Too old. Linder would deny it flatly, and there would be no witnesses. The woman is dead—killed by his brutal treatment of her, they say. But the whole thing was hushed up at the time by Linder's pull, and when the husband threatened to kill him Linder quietly set a commissioner of insanity on the case and had the man put away. He's never appeared since. No, that wouldn't be politically effective."

The gray man nodded and walked away musing.

"Egbert, the traction boss," explained Waldemar. "We're generally on opposite sides, but this time we're both against Linder. Egbert wants a cheaper man for mayor. I want a straighter one. And I could get him this year if Linder wasn't so well fortified."

What time the Honorable William Linder matured his designs on the mayoralty, Average Jones sat in a suite of offices in Astor Court, a location which Waldemar had advised as being central, expensive, and inspirational of confidence, and considered, with a whirling brain, the minor woes of humanity. Other people's troubles had swarmed down upon him in answer to his advertised offer of help, as sparrows flock to scattered bread crumbs. Mostly these were of the lesser order of difficulties; but for what he gave in advice and help the Ad-Visor took payment in experience and knowledge of human nature. Still it was the hard, honest study, and the helpful toll which held him to his task, rather than the romance and adventure which he had hoped for and Waldemar had foretold—until, in a quiet street in Brooklyn, of which he had never so much as heard, there befell that which, first of many events, justified the prophetic Waldemar and gave Average Jones a part in the greater drama of the metropolis. The party of the second part was the Honorable William Linder.

Mr. Linder sat at five p. m., of an early summer day, behind lock and bolt. The third floor front room of his ornate mansion on Brooklyn's Park Slope was dedicated to peaceful thought. Sprawled in a huge and softly upholstered chair at the window, he took his ease in his house. The chair had been the recent gift from an anonymous admirer whose political necessities, the Honorable Mr. Linder idly surmised, had not yet driven him to reveal his identity.

Below, in Kennard Street, a solitary musician plodded. His pretzel-shaped brass rested against his shoulder. He appeared to be the "scout" of one of those prevalent and melancholious German bands, which, under Brooklyn's easy ordinances, are privileged to draw echoes of the past writhing from their forgotten recesses. The man looked slowly about him as if appraising potential returns. His gravid glance encountered the prominent feet in the third story window of the Linder mansion, and rested. He raised the mouthpiece to his lips and embarked on a perilous sea of notes from which the tutored ear might have inferred that once popular ditty, Egypt.

Love of music was not one of the Honorable William Linder's attributes. An irascible temper was. Of all instruments the B-Flat trombone possesses the most nerve-jarring tone. The master of the mansion leaped from his restful chair. Where his feet had ornamented the coping his face now appeared. Far out he leaned, and roared at the musician below: "Gettahell outthere!"

The performer upturned a mild and vacant face. "What you say?" he inquired in a softly Teutonic accent.

The Honorable William Linder made urgent gestures, like a brakeman.

"Go away! Move on!"

The musician smiled reassuringly.

"I got already paid for this," he explained.

Up went the brass to his lips again. The tonal stairway which leads up to the chorus of Egypt rose in rasping wailfulness. It culminated in an excessive, unendurable, brazen shriek—and the Honorable William Linder experienced upon the undefended rear of his person the most violent kick of a lifetime not always devoted to the arts of peace. It projected him clear of the window-sill. His last sensible vision was the face of the musician, the mouth absurdly hollow and pursed above the suddenly removed mouthpiece. Then an awning intercepted the politician's flight. He passed through this, penetrated a second and similar stretch of canvas shading the next window below, and lay placid on his own front steps with three ribs caved in and a variegated fracture of the collar-bone. By the time the descent was ended the German musi-



cian had tucked his brass under his arm and was hurrying, in panic, down the street, his ears still ringing with the concussion which had blown the angry householder from his own front window. He was intercepted by a running policeman.

"Where was the explosion?" demanded the officer. "Explosion? I hear a noise in the larch house on the corner," replied the musician dully.

The policeman grabbed his arm. "Come along back. You fer a witness! Come on; you an' yer horn."

"It iss not a horn," explained the German patiently. "It iss a B-flat trombone."

Along with several million other readers, Average Jones followed the Linder "bomb outrage" through the scandalized head-lines of the local press. The perpetrator, declared the excited journals, had been skilful. No clew was left. The explosion had taken care of that. The police (with the characteristic stupidity of a corps of former truck-drivers and bartenders, decorated with brass buttons and shields and without further qualification dubbed "detectives") vacillated from theory to theory. Their putty-and-pasteboard fantasies did not long survive the Honorable William Linder's return to consciousness and coherence. An "inside job," they had said. The door was locked and bolted, Mr. Linder declared, and there was no possible place for an intruder to conceal himself. Clock-work, then.

"How would any human being guess what time to set it for," demanded the politician in disgust, "when I never know, myself, where I'm going to be at any given hour of any given day?"

"Then, that Dutch horn-player threw the bomb," propounded the head of the "Detective Bureau" ponderously.

"Of course; tossed it right up, three stories, and kept playing his infernal trombone with the other hand all the time. You ought to be carrying a hod!"

Nevertheless, the police hung tenaciously to the theory that the musician was involved, chiefly because they had nothing else to hang to. The explosion had been very localized, the room not generally wrecked; but the chair which seemed to be the center of disturbance, and from which the Honorable William Linder had risen just in time to save his life, was blown to pieces, and a portion of the floor beneath it was much shattered. The force of the explosion had been from above the floor downward; not up through the flooring. As to murderously inclined foes, Mr. Linder disclaimed knowledge of any. The notion that the trombonist had given a signal he derided as an "Old Sleuth pipe-dream."

As time went on and "clues" came to nothing, the police had no greater concern than quietly to forget, according to custom, a problem beyond their limited powers. With the release of the German musician, who was found to be simple-minded to the verge of half-wittedness, public interest waned, and the case faded out of current print.

Average Jones, who was much occupied with a pair of blackmailers operating through faked photographs about that time, had almost forgotten the Linder case, when, one day, a month after the explosion, Waldemar dropped in at the Astor Court offices.

"I haven't thought or dreamed of anything for a month but this infernal bomb explosion," he said.

"Oh, the Linder case. You're personally interested?"

"Politically. It makes Linder's nomination certain. Persecution. Attempted assassination. He becomes a near-martyr. I'm almost ready to believe that he planted a fake bomb himself."

"And fell out of a third-story window to carry out the idea? That's pushing realism rather far, isn't it?"

Waldemar laughed. "There's the weakness. Unless we suppose that he under-reckoned the charge of explosive."

"They let the musician go, didn't they?"

"Yes, there was absolutely no proof against him, except that he was in the street below. Besides, he seemed quite lacking mentally."

"Mightn't that have been a sham?"

"Alienists of good standing examined him. They reported him just a shade better than half-witted. He was like a one-ideaed child, his whole being comprised in his ability and ambition to play his B-flat trombone."

"Well, if I needed an accomplice," said Average Jones thoughtfully. "I wouldn't want any better one than a half-witted man. Did he play well?"

"Atrociously. And if you know what a soul-shattering blare exudes from a B-flat trombone—" Mr. Waldemar lifted expressive hands.

Within Average Jones' overstocked mind something stirred at the repetition of the words "B-flat trombone." Somewhere they had attracted his notice in print; and somehow they were connected with Waldemar. Then from amidst the hundreds of advertisements with which, in the past weeks, he had crowded his brain, one stood out clear. It voiced the desire of an unknown gentleman on the near border of Harlem for the services of a performer upon that semi-exotic instrument. One among several, it had been cut from the columns of the Universal, on the evening which had launched him upon his new enterprise. Average Jones made two steps to a bookcase, took down a huge scrap-book from an alphabetized row, and turned the leaves rapidly.

"Three Hundred East One Hundredth Street," said he, slamming the book shut again. "Three Hundred East One Hundredth. You won't mind, will you?"—to Waldemar—"if I leave you unceremoniously?"

"Recalled a forgotten engagement?" asked the other, rising.

"Yes. No. I mean I'm going to Harlem to hear some music. Thirty-fourth's the nearest station, isn't it? Thanks. So long."

Waldemar rubbed his head thoughtfully as the door slammed behind the speeding Ad-Visor.

"Now, what kind of a tune is he on the track of, I wonder?" he mused. "I wish it hadn't struck him until I'd had time to go over the Linder business with him."

But while Waldemar rubbed his head in cogitation and the Honorable William Linder, in his Brooklyn headquarters, breathed charily, out of respect to his creaking rib, Average Jones was following fate northward.

Three Hundred East One Hundredth Street is a house decrepit with a disease of the aged. Its windowed eyes are rheumy. It sags backward on gnarled joints. All its poor old bones creak when the winds shake it. To Average Jones' inquiring gaze on this summer day it opposed the secrecy of a senile indifference. He hesitated to pull at its bell-knob, lest by that act he should exert a disruptive force which might bring all the frail structure rattling down in ruin. When, at length, he forced himself to the summons, the merest ghost of a tinkle complained petulantly from within against his violence.

An old lady came to the door. She was sleek and placid, round and comfortable. She did not seem to belong in that house at all. Average Jones felt as if he had cracked open one of the grizzly locust shells which cling lifelessly to tree trunks, and had found within a plump and prosperous beetle.

"Was an advertisement for a trombone player inserted from this house, ma'am?" he inquired.

"Long ago," she said.

"Am I too late, then?"

"Much. It was answered nearly two months since. I have never," said the old lady with conviction, "seen such a frazzled lot of folks at B-flat trombone players."

"The person who inserted the advertisement—"

"Has left. A month since."

"Could you tell me where he went?"

"Left no address."

"His name was Telford, wasn't it?" said Average Jones strategically.

"Might be," said the old lady, who had evidently formed no favorable impression of her ex-lodger. "But he called himself Ransom."

"He had a furnished room?"

"The whole third floor, furnished."

"Is it let now?"

"Part of it. The rear."

"I'll take the front room."

"Without even looking at it?"

"Yes."

"You're a queer young man. As to price?"

"Whatever you choose."

"You're a very queer young man. Are you a B-flat trombone player?"

"I collect them," said Average Jones.

"References?" said the old lady abruptly and with suspicion.

"All varieties," replied her prospective lodger cheerfully. "I will bring 'em to-morrow with my grip."

For five successive evenings thereafter Average Jones sat in the senile house, awaiting personal response to the following advertisement which he had inserted in the Universal:

WANTED—B-Flat trombonist. Must have had experience as street player. Apply between 8 and 10 p. m. R—, 300 East 100th Street.

Between the ebb and flow of applicant musicians he read exhaustively upon the unallied subjects of trombones and high explosives, or talked with his landlady who proved to be a sociable person, not disinclined to discuss the departed guest. "Ransom" his supplanter learned had come light and gone light. Two dress suit cases had sufficed to bring in all his belongings. He went out but little, and then, she opined with a disgustful sniff, for purposes strictly alcoholic. Parcels came for him occasionally. These were usually labeled "Glass, Handle with care." Oh! there was one other thing. A huge, easy arm-chair from Carruthers and Company, mighty luxurious for an eight-dollar lodger.

"Did he take that with him?" asked Average Jones.

"No. After he had been here a while he had a man come in and box it up. He must have sent it away, but I never saw it go."

The musician, ushered in, looked about him, an expression of bewildered and childish surprise on his rabbit-like face. "I am Schlichting," he murmured; "I come to play the B-flat trombone."

"Glad to see you, Mr. Schlichting," said Average Jones, leading the way upstairs. "Sit down."

The visitor put his trombone down and shook his head with conviction.

"It is the same room, yes," he observed. "But it is not the same gent, no."

"You expected to find Mr. Ransom the gentleman who employed you to play in the street in Brooklyn, where the fat gentleman told you to stop, and fell out of the window?"

A look of fear overspread the worn and innocent face.

"I don't go there no more. The police, they take me."

"But you had gone there before?"

"Not to play, no."

"Not to play? Are you sure?"

The German considered painfully.

"There was no feet in the window," he explained, brightening.

Upon that surprising phrase Average Jones pondered. "You were not to play unless there were feet in the window," he said at length. "Was that it?"

The German reached down and lifted his instrument to his lips.

"No, not that," forbade Average Jones.

"Put it down."

"Not to play my B-flat trombone?" asked the other, innocently hurt. "The other gent he make me play here always."

"Did he?" drawled Average Jones. "And he—er—listened?"

"He listened from out there." The musician pointed to the other room.

"How long?"

"Different times," was the placid reply.

"But he was always in the other room?"

"Always. And I play Egypt. Like this."

"No!" said Average Jones, as the other stretched out a hopeful hand.

"He liked it—Egypt," said the German wistfully. "He said: 'Bravo! Encore! Bis! Sometimes nine, sometimes ten times over I play it, the chorus.'"

"And then he sent you home?"

"Then sometimes something goes 'sping-g-g-g-g-' like that in the back room. Then he comes out and I may go home."

"Um—um," muttered Average Jones discontentedly. "When did you begin to play in the street?"

"After a long time. He take me away to Brooklyn and tell me, 'When you see the feet iss in the window you play hard.'"

There was a long pause. Then Average Jones asked casually:

"Did you ever notice a big easy chair here?"

"I do not notice nothing. I play my B-flat trombone."

And there his limitations were established. But the old lady had something to add.

"It's all true that he said," she confirmed. "I could hear his racket in the front room and Mr. Ransom working in the back and then, after the old man was gone, Mr. Ransom sweeping up something himself."

"Sweeping? What—er—was he—er—sweeping?"

"Glass, I think. The girl used to find little slivers of it first in one part of the room, then in another."

"The next thing," said Average Jones, "is to find out where that big easy chair went from here. Can you help me there?"

The old lay shook her head. "All I can do is to tell you the near-by truckmen."

Canvas of the local trucking industry brought to light the conveyor of that elegant article of furniture. It had gone Average Jones learned, not to the mansion of the Honorable William Linder, as he had fondly hoped, but to an obscure address, not far from the Navy Yard in Brooklyn. To this address, having looked up and gathered in the B-flat trombonist, Average Jones led the way. The pair lurked in the neighborhood of the ramshackle house watching the entrance, until toward evening, as the door opened to let out a tremulous wreck of a man, palsied with debauch, Schlichting observed:

"That iss him. He has been drinking again once."

Average Jones hurried the musician around the corner into concealment. "You have been here before to meet Mr. Ransom?"

"No."

"Where did he meet you to pay your wages?"

"On some corner," said the other vaguely.

"Then he took you to the big house and left you there," urged Jones.

"No; he left me on the street corner. 'When the feet iss in the window,' he says 'you play.'"

"It comes to this," drawled Average Jones intently, looking the employee between his vacuous eyes. "Ransom shipped the chair to Plymouth Street and from there to Linder's house."

Average Jones paid him a lump sum, dismissed him and returned to the Cosmic Club, there to ponder the problem.

Conversation at the round-table was general and lively that evening, and not until the port came on—the prideful club served only on special occasions and in wonderful, delicate glasses—did Average Jones get an opportunity to speak to Waldemar aside.

"I've been looking into that Linder matter a little."

"Indeed, I've about given up hope."

"What was the husband's name?"

"Arbuthnot, I believe."

"Do you know what sort of looking man he was?"

"No. I could find out from Washington."

"What was his business?"

"Government employment, I think."

"In the—er—scientific line, perhaps?" drawled Jones.

"Why, yes, I believe it was."

"Um—m. Suppose, now, Linder should drop out of the combination. Who would be the most likely nominee?"

"Marsden—the man I've been grooming for the place. A first-class, honorable, fearless man."

"Well, it's only a chance; but if I can get one dark point cleared up—"

He paused as a curious, tingling note came from the platform where the musicians were tuning up.

"One of Bellerding's sweet dulcets," observed Bertram.

The performer nearest them was running a slow bass scale on a sort of two-stringed horse fiddle of a strange shape. Average Jones' still untouched glass, almost full of the precious port, trembled and sang a little tentative response. Up—up—up mounted the thrilling notes, in crescendo force.

"What a racking sort of tone, for all its sweetness!" said Average Jones. His delicate and fragile port glass evidently shared the opinion, for without further warning, it split and shattered.

"They used to show that experiment in the laboratory," said Bertram. "You must have had just the accurate amount of liquid in the glass, Average. Move back, you lunatic, it's dripping all over you."

But Average Jones sat unheeding. The liquor dribbled down into his lap. He kept his fascinated gaze fixed on the shattered glass. Bertram dabbed at him with a napkin.

"Tha—a—anks, Bertram," drawled the beneficiary of this attention. "Doesn't matter. Excuse me. Good night."

Leaving his surprised companions, he took hat and cane and caught a Third Avenue car. By the time he had reached Brooklyn Bridge he had his campaign mapped out.

At the house near the Navy Yard he learned that his man was out. So he sat upon the front steps while one of the highest-priced wines in New York dried into his knees. Shortly before eleven a shuffling figure paused at the steps, feeling for a key.

"Mr. Arbuthnot, otherwise Ransom?" said Average Jones blandly.

The man's chin jerked back. His jaw dropped.

"Would you like to hire another B-flat trombonist?" pursued the young man.

"Who are you?" gasped the other.

"What do you want?"

"I want to know," drawled Average Jones, "how—er—you planted the glass bulb—er—the sulphuric acid bulb, you know—in the chair that you sent—er—to the Honorable William Linder, so that—er—it wouldn't be shattered by anything but the middle C note of the B-flat trombone?"

The man sat down weakly and bowed his face in his hands. Presently he looked up.

"I don't care," he said. "Come inside."

At the end of an hour's talk Arbuthnot, alias Ransom, agreed to everything that Average Jones proposed.

"Mind you," he said, "I don't promise I won't kill him later. But meantime it'll be some satisfaction to put him down and out politically. You can find me here any time you want me. You say you'll see Linder to-morrow?"

"To-morrow," said Average Jones. "Look in the next day's paper for the result."

Setting his telephone receiver down the Honorable William Linder lost himself in conjecture. He had just given an appointment to his tried and true, but quite impersonal enemy, Mr. Horace Waldemar.

"What can Waldemar want of me?" ran his thoughts. "And who is this friend, Jones, that he's bringing? Jones? Jones?!" He tried it in three different accents, without extracting any particular meaning therefrom. "Nothing much in the political game," he decided.

It was with a mingling of gruffness and dignity that he greeted Mr. Waldemar an hour later. The introduction to Average Jones he acknowledged with a curt nod.

"Want a job for this young man, Waldemar?" he grunted.

"Not at present, thank you," returned the newspaper owner. "Mr. Jones has a few arguments to present to you—"

"Arguments," repeated the Honorable William Linder contemptuously. "What kind of arguments?"

"Political arguments. Mayoralty, to

be specific. To be more specific still, arguments showing why you should drop out of the race."

"A pin-feather reformer, eh?"

The politician turned to meet Average Jones' steady gaze and mildly inquiring smile.

"Do you—er—know anything of submarine mines, Mr. Linder?" drawled the visitor.

"Huh?" returned the Honorable William Linder, startled.

"Submarine mines," explained the other. "Mines—in—the—sea, if you wish words of one syllable."

The lids of the Honorable Linder contracted.

"You're in the wrong joint," he said, "this ain't the Naval College."

"Thank you. A submarine mine is a very ingenious affair. I've recently been reading somewhat extensively on the subject. The main charge is some high explosive, usually the dynamite type. Above it is a small jar of sulphuric acid. Teeth, working on levers, surround this jar. The levers project outside the mine. When a ship strikes the mine, one or more of the levers are pressed in. The teeth crush the jar. The sulphuric acid drops upon the main charge and explodes it. Do you follow me?"

"I'll follow you as far as the front door," said the politician balefully. He rose.

"If the charge were in a chair, in the cushion of an easy chair, we'll say, on the third floor of a house in Brooklyn—"

The Honorable William Linder sat down again. He sat heavily.

"The problem would be somewhat different. Of course, it would be easy to arrange that the first person to sit down in the chair would, by his own weight, blow himself up. But the first person might not be the right person, you know. Do you still follow me?"

The Honorable William Linder made a remark like a fish.

"Now, we have, if you will forgive my professional method," continued Average Jones, "a chair sent to a gentleman of prominence from an anonymous source. In this chair is a charge of high explosive and above it a glass bulb containing sulphuric acid. The bulb, we will assume is so safeguarded as to resist any ordinary shock of moving. But when this gentleman, sitting at ease in his chair, is noticed by a trombonist, placed for that purpose in the street below—"

"The Dutch horn-player!" cried the politician. "Then it was him; and I'll—"

"Only an innocent tool," interrupted Average Jones, in his turn. "He had no comprehension of what he was doing. He didn't understand that the vibration from his trombone on one particular note of the slide up the scale—as in the chorus of Egypt—would shiver that glass and set off the charge. All that he knew was to play the B-flat trombone and take his pay."

"His pay?" The question leaped to the politician's lips. "Who paid him?"

"A—man—named—er—Arbuthnot," drawled Average Jones.

Linder's eyes did not drop, but a film seemed to be drawn over them.

"You once knew—er—a Mrs. Arbuthnot?"

The thick shoulders shivered a little.

"Her husband—her widower—is in Brooklyn. Shall I push the argument any further to convince you that you'd better drop out of the mayoralty race?"

Linder recovered himself a little. "What kind of a game are you ringing on me?" he demanded.

"Don't you think," suggested Average Jones sweetly, "that considered as news, this—"

Linder caught the word out of his mouth. "News!" he roared. "A fake story ten years old, news? That ain't news! It's spite work. Even your dirty paper, Waldemar, wouldn't rake that kind of muck up after ten years. It'd be a boomerang. You'll have to put up a stronger line of blackmail and bluff than that."

"Blackmail is perhaps the correct word technically," admitted the newspaper owner, "but bluff—there you go wrong. You've forgotten one thing; that Arbuthnot's arrest and confession would make the whole story news. We stand ready to arrest Arbuthnot, and he stands ready to confess."

There was a long, tense minute of silence. Then—

"What do you want?" The straight-to-the-point question was an admission of defeat.

"Your announcement of withdrawal. I'd rather print that than the Arbuthnot story."

There was a long silence. Finally the Honorable William Linder dropped his hand on the table, palm up.

"You win," he declared curtly. "But you'll give me the benefit, in the announcement, of bad health caused by the shock of the explosion, to explain my quitting, Waldemar."

"It will certainly make it more plausible," assented the newspaper owner with a smile.

Linder turned on Average Jones.

"Did you dope this out, young fellow?" he demanded.

"Yes."

"Well, you've put me in the Down-and-Out-Club, all right. And I'm just curious enough to want to know how you did it."

"By abstaining," returned Average Jones cryptically, "from the best wine that ever came out of the Cosmic Club cellar."

—get one neighbor

to sign the coupon on page seven

of this issue—tell him his dollar can

come anytime before Dec. 1st, and

he'll have the new market weekly

every Saturday.

County Crop Reports

GENESEE (Southwestern)—The farmers are very busy at this writing. Some are filling their silos, others are harvesting beans, plowing for wheat and various other work that is always done at this time of the year. We have not had any rain the last few days, but we have had enough for some time yet. The soil is in fine shape for fall work. Some farmers are selling their grain at threshing time, but the most are not, for they expect better prices later. Several silos have been bought this fall. We have had two pretty hard frosts, the first on the night of Sept. 9th and the second and harshest on Sept. 10th. Considerable damage has been done but it is not as serious as has been reported by some. Corn has not been hit very hard, except in the low soils. Beans have been hit quite a bit harder, and several fields that were extra late have been made nearly a complete loss, but the majority of fields have not been damaged to any extra large extent. Potatoes have not been damaged, except in the low spots. The damage cannot be estimated, as some fields have been partly destroyed while others only about half a mile away have not been hit at all. The loss will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, but not even approximate figures can be given at this time.—C. W. S. Fenton.

VAN BUREN (East Central)—Champion grapes are being harvested this week with Moore's Early following very closely. Cool nights causing them to ripen very slow. Wednesday night the safe in Mattawan postoffice was blown open and about \$500 taken. Frost Sunday and Monday nights hit hard on low places, making cucumbers a short crop. The market on Champion grapes opened up at 20c for 4-qt. basket by car lots.—V. T. G. Mattawan.

OAKLAND (North Central)—We are having fine weather for fitting ground for wheat. Everybody at it. There will be a good acreage sown. Cannot get threshing done as there are not enough machines in the county. A big crop of oats, a fine crop of corn where frost did not get it. Not any fruit but apples and pears, and a light crop of apples. A good many silos have been built. William Edgar is just finishing a large barn in place of one burned by lightning last year. George Hams, near Davisburg, lost a fine barn last week by lightning; all of his crops went.—E. F. Clarkston.

OGEMAW (East Central)—The farmers are harvesting and threshing. The weather is cold; the soil has plenty of moisture, but backward for being so cold. The farmers are selling wheat, rye and some early potatoes. A number are selling their stock.—H. A. B. Selkirk.

OTSEGO (Central)—Some fall plowing being done this fall for rye and wheat. Not much threshing being done yet. No rain for the last two weeks but been having frosts for the last three or four nights; froze the potatoes and corn and buckwheat in many places. Pastures are poor, many farmers are feeding their stock.—C. A. Gaylord.

CLARE (Southwest)—Threshing is the order of the day. The killing frosts of Sunday night did great harm to beans and corn, and continued frosts are destroying all the maturity of them, but few were matured and large acreages were planted. Mr. Clark is erecting a house and barn on his farm. Mr. Asherd is erecting a cement house on his ranch.—D. B. Lake.

VAN BUREN (Northeast)—We have had two frosts and they hurt corn and late potatoes. Buckwheat and winter apples are shy. The land is sand, clay and gravel. The people are mostly in the fruit business around here.—J. N. A. Breedsville.

MONTCALM (Southwestern)—Glory be! It is raining for the first time in nearly eight weeks. It will be a great benefit to late potatoes, corn and seedling. Too late to help beans very much in this vicinity. We have been waiting for rain so that we can plow for wheat. In the meantime we have been getting some road work done. Nearly everyone reports good crop of oats. Wheat ranges from very poor to good. Our fair is on this week. Will try to get a better line on county conditions. Will be glad to make a weekly report.—R. E. P. Greenville.

ST. CLAIR (East Central)—Farmers are hastening the cutting of corn and filling silos since the frost of Monday night and Tuesday night. Grain is not turning out as good as anticipated, owing to the damage from hail storms.—E. J. St. Clair.

ISABELLA (Southwest)—Having recently made a trip to Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana, I will say that the farmers have done their best to "do their bit" in feeding the nation, but the crops are all late on account of the weather. Need a few more weeks of good weather to mature. Threshing and putting in fall crops is the order of the day. Farmers are in a study whether to feed the high-priced grain to hogs or to sell them half-finished as the corn crop is poor.—W. D. J. Blanchard.

LAPEER (Southwestern)—Oats well taken care of, with wheat threshing nearly over and the yield much better than was expected. Local snows of the last week improving the pastures wonderfully and plowing of a large acreage going on. Frost did some damage to corn and beans but not serious.—C. A. S. Almont.

INGHAM (South Central)—Silo filling has commenced. Some beans are pulled. Most beans need ten days or two weeks to mature. Corn on low ground was damaged so it will not mature. Corn on high ground needs three weeks. Late potato vines were hurt about a quarter. Some wheat and rye are drilled.—B. W. Leslie.



THE FARM HOME

A Department for the Woman and Children of the Farm



ANNE CAMPBELL STARK, EDITOR.

This Week's Tested Recipe

GRANDMA'S DOUGHNUTS.

One cup milk (Sour if you have it. If sour 1-2 teaspoon soda, and 1 heaping teaspoon baking powder. If sweet, 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder.) Scant cup sugar. 2 eggs. 1 teaspoon nutmeg. 1-2 teaspoon salt. Flour enough to make soft dough. 1 teaspoon lard or butter.

Be Cheerful for John's Sake

THE MOST important job a woman has is to be cheerful! It's a great deal more important than food conservation, regardless of what Mr. Hoover says! Of course, the best about it is that there are few women who can go into canning and pickling up to their ears and be cheerful too. Their husbands are truly blessed! It's a great gift, being cheerful, and one difficult to acquire. Especially hard is it for the young mother, new to the ways of housekeeping and motherhood, to attend to her multitudinous duties without occasionally being discouraged and losing her cheery outlook. It's mighty hard, and I speak from experience, to keep one eye on the baby, one on the present task, and plan the meals all the same time. If a person could just go ahead, one job at a time, the way a man does! But a woman always has half a dozen things to do at the same time, and take care of the baby, too.

After a nerve-racking day, when John comes home from the fields, how many of us take our nervousness and fatigue out on him in a few well-directed scolding remarks! Consider poor John. He's been working all day, perhaps under adverse conditions too. Of course, he is seldom bothered with what seems to us extremely petty things, but he's a hard worker, is John. He toils all day long, and back in his brain is the thought of his home, his wife and his baby. They are like the shadow of a rock in a weary land to John. To them he comes home at night as a child goes to his mother's lap for rest. Home, where a cheerful wife awaits him, with a smile and kiss, where his baby toddles with a joyful squeal to daddy, and where all the lesser joys of favorite pipe and book fill him with a sense of comfort and well-being.

By forgetting to be cheerful, you can mar this picture for John. If you meet him with a frown, and a complaining monolog about the hardness of your lot, John begins to squirm mentally and be mighty uncomfortable. Undoubtedly he feels that you threw yourself away when you married him, that he is a poor stick, anyway, and he wishes mightily for riches and plenty to shower upon you. Anything to smooth out that frown on your pretty forehead and to make you cheerful! Even the warm kiss of his baby doesn't comfort John. You've spoiled his world for him temporarily.

Maybe when you've realized what you've done, you'll smile and be cheerful, for John's sake!

The Dry Shampoo

"WHAT IS the matter with my hair?" asked the High School Girl of the Hairdresser.

"How often have you been washing it?" asked the Hairdresser.

"Oh, every week or ten days. It does get so dirty!"

"That's your trouble," said the Hairdresser. "You've been washing it too often. Why don't you give it a dry shampoo occasionally?"

"I don't know how," answered the High School Girl, "but I'm willing to be shown."

"Watch me!" the Hairdresser said shortly.

"I'll use a hair brush with long bristles, as it is absolutely important in preparing the hair for a dry shampoo, that all particles or loose dust be removed before any further cleansing process is attempted. You see, the bristles are stiff enough to penetrate to your scalp, but they don't scratch, do they? They're not stiff enough for that. Now, I'll separate the hair into small strands and thoroughly brush each one until it is free from dust. The brushing also stimulates the circulation of the blood through the scalp. Now, the hair is ready for the application of the dry shampoo.

"Because you're such a dear little friend of mine, I'll give you a recipe for dry shampoo. One of the best preparations for this purpose is made of two parts of powdered orris root and one of talcum powder. Put this in a box with a perfor-

ated lid. Rub the powder about so it reaches every single hair, then use the brush thoroughly.

"Many hair specialists use this mixture:

3 gills of bay rum; 1 ounce glycerine; 1-4 ounce carbonate of potash; 1-4 ounce borax and 1-4 ounce carbonate of ammonia.

"The borax, potash and ammonia should be put into the bay rum, and when they are dissolved, add the glycerine. Shake well so the ingredients will mix. Always shake this before using. The way to use this liquid dry shampoo is to rub it well over the scalp with a linen cloth or a sponge and let it dry in."

"My sister Jane has awfully oily hair," said the High School Girl.

"Eau de cologne is the best thing for that," stated the Hairdresser. "Tell her to wet her hair thoroughly with this liquid, and then to wipe it off as quickly as possible with a soft towel before the cologne has had time to evaporate."

"What sort of a dry shampoo are you using on my hair?" asked the High School Girl.

"I'll give you the recipe," said the Hairdresser. "I prefer this recipe to the one I have given you:

2 ounces lavender water; 1-2 ounce borax; 1 1-2 ounces orange flower water and 1-4 ounce tincture of cochineal.

"It has such a nice clean odor," said the High School Girl, as she watched the Hairdresser do her hair up in soft coils over her well-shaped head. "My, but my head feels good!"

"You just try the dry shampoo occasionally," and the Hairdresser gave the blond locks a dexterous twist. "Washing the hair too often dries the oils, deprives the hair of nourishment, and makes it look dry and lustreless. After a while it falls out. Once in three weeks is often enough to wash the hair," said the Hairdresser, "and then it is often a benefit to let it go another week or two and use the dry shampoo."

Longings

*I'M kinda lonesome these fine days,
I'll just have to confess.
Since Pa and I have left the farm,
Things ain't the same, I guess.
We thought that movin' into town
Would be just something grand,
But now we'd each give a right arm
To move back to the land.*

"BACK to the land!" I've seen that phrase

*In newspapers and such.
I never thought so much of it,
But now, say every ditch
In that old farm we've left behind
Is precious ground to me!
Since Pa and I moved into town
Taint as it used to be!*

YOU see my son got married and
We thought 'twould be just fine
To start him out in better style
Than started me and mine.
So we leased the farm to him last June,
We're gettin' old, you know,
We knew right well that our fine boy
Would make the old place go.

HES doin' fine, I'm glad to say.
Much better than his dad.
His modern ways sure make the cash,
And I'm awful glad.
I wouldn't tell him for the world
How homesick we two be.
Wisht we were startin' out afresh
On timber—Pa and me!

—ANNE CAMPBELL STARK.

Kitchen Curtains

THE appearance of the kitchen is greatly enhanced by pretty white sash curtains but many women object to them because they are constantly blowing against the stove, the sink, the table, or the object nearest them. I learned of a splendid idea the other day and hasten to pass it on. Slip heavy dress weights into the hems, and fasten them to keep them from sliding. The weights only cost ten cents a dozen, and you can sew three or five evenly in the hem of each curtain, depending upon the width of the window, or the amount of breeze which comes through it. You will find that they will hang down the way they should after that.

Uncle Sam's Thrift Thought

SPREAD THE MEAT FLAVOR.

Spread the meat flavor and so economize on the amount of meat consumed, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Here is a suggestion for making a delicious dish from an inexpensive steak.

Mock Duck

On a round steak cut thin, place a stuffing of bread crumbs well seasoned with chopped onions, butter or other fat, salt, pepper, and flavorings such as sage, celery seed, etc., if desired. Roll the steak around the stuffing and tie in several places with a string. If the steak is tough steam or stew the roll until tender before roasting in the oven.

If desired the roll may be cooked in a casserole, in which case a cupful or more of water should be added.

Draining the Kitchen Sink

FAR TOO many of the farm kitchens today still adhere to the old-fashioned and messy practice of tolerating the slop-pail. I dare say that seventy-five per cent. of the farmers, in parts of the country at least, who, altho giving but a second thought to the purchase of a hundred dollars worth of machinery or a whole herd of stock would stop in utter surprise if asked to spend a few dollars on sanitation about the house.

Few farm houses are thoroughly equipped with all the modern conveniences, and it is not to be wondered at, to find among those missing, the bath room. Really, tho, the bath room is as much of a necessity as is the furnace, or perhaps the family car.

But this is getting into another story. What can be easily accomplished, however, if the slop-pail does still exist in the kitchen, is to spend a few dollars for some pipe and an enameled sink, and run off the water as shown by the sketch. And after the job is done, you will only wonder why you didn't do it before. The never-ending task of emptying slop buckets will be at an end.

If the subsoil of the surrounding yard is of sand, or of decidedly light and porous nature, the task will consist merely of piping the drain to an old barrel, minus bottom, a few feet under the surface and let it go at that.

But if the subsoil is

of a sticky or non-porous consistency, such as clay or muck, other measures will have to be taken.

A simple and effective way is to sink, say a carbide

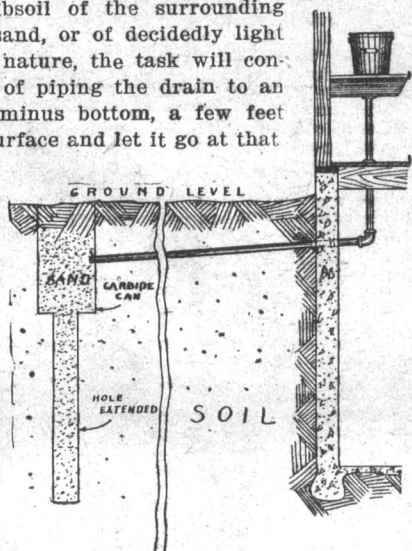
can two or three feet under the surface, upside-down as shown, and then with a post-hole digger with an elongated handle, of small gaspipe, continue the hole for ten or fifteen feet.

The entire hole is then filled with coarse sand or gravel, and then connected up as in the former case. Simple pipe connections from the sink to the outlet are best for they do the work and that is all that is necessary. Moreover, anyone can do the work in spare time, thus saving the cost of an experienced plumber. Slope the pipe a trifle from the sink. The pipe will easily bend enough to accomplish this.

Particular conditions alter any case, and given the idea, anyone should be able to install such a system on any farm, no matter how difficult.

After some years the can will have rusted away, and the barrel will have become honey-combed with worm-holes, if not crumpled and decayed, but even then it would be but a small matter to replace them, for the pipe will still be there.

The next time you are in town just drop into your local hardware store and get prices on the pipe and sink. You'll be surprised how little the improvement will cost.—Dale R. VanHorn.



Farmers Who Succeed

How R. C. Reed of Howell "Rebuilt" a Worn Out Soil, Transforming it into the Highest State of Fertility



A MILE east of Howell is a sandy farm which less than a decade ago refused to pay its owner the taxes levied upon it. Today it is one of the most productive farms in Livingston county.

The original farm comprised a tract of 160 acres of "blow sand." It was so light and unproductive ten years ago that it seemed to blow away with each windstorm. The crops were poor and the buildings were in perfect harmony with their environment. For three years the farm had failed to pay the taxes levied against it. The farm had been "cropped to death" and finally despairing of future livelihood from the place, the owner offered it for sale.

Here is where Mr. R. C. Reed of Howell became interested in the farm. He had been farming in Michigan for more than 30 years but was not enjoying the best of health at that time. He had retired in the village to take a long-needed rest, but village life for a man who had been active all his life upon a farm failed to content him. As Mrs. Reed puts it, "he refused to rust out in idleness," so he bought the old worn-out farm for \$2,600, a song compared with its present valuation, in the heart of this great Holstein cattle district of America. Predictions were freely made that Mr. Reed would soon find he had a "Jonah" on his hands. To the public eye its barren fields held no promise; to Mr. Reed they forecasted a golden opportunity. Today they are not only paying the taxes levied upon them and the interest upon the investment, but they are also giving up a neat profit to their owner.

There is no secret connected with the reclamation work on Fairlawn Farm, as it is known today. Mr. Reed frankly admits that any farmer in Michigan can "doctor" up the soil and make it almost as rich as the virgin sod which our forefathers turned with the plowshare centuries ago.

Vetch sown with rye, and these crops followed by corn and alfalfa, formed a combination that partly restored the fertility to the depleted fields on Fairlawn Farm. The reclamation work was slow. The vetch acted as the soil builder. It supplied the soil with the elements of which it had been robbed during the years when crops were raised and everything sold from the farm. When sown with rye it made an excellent crop to turn under as green manure; when cut it made an excellent hay for live stock. As a forage crop on sandy soil it could not be excelled. Vetch and rye did much to build up the depleted soil so that good crops of corn and alfalfa followed. But all this was not accomplished by those two crops alone. Tons upon tons of barnyard manure were hauled from the stables in Howell upon the land in addition to the large quantities secured from the dairy herds with

which Mr. Reed had stocked the farm to consume the crops. The first few years were "lean years." The only returns were from the sale of milk and pure bred animals, but once after the land began to regain its fertility, the earnings began to increase. Only a few acres at the rear of the farm remain today to be improved.

Mr. Reed knows beyond a doubt that the fertility of this soil could not have been restored without the aid of the dairy herd or some other branch of live stock farming. Instead of selling the hay and crops off the farm, they were retained, fed to the farm animals and later returned to the soil from which they had been taken. The crops were marketed through the animals without much extra work and the soil fertility was maintained and improved thru the rich applications of barnyard manure.

Although the rebuilding of this old farm and the management of another big farm a few miles away have kept Mr. Reed pretty busy, it should not be inferred that his activities have been confined to the advancement of his own interests alone. Far from it. Mr. Reed is of the rare type who finds the greatest pleasure of life in making themselves useful to their fellow-men. As field secretary of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n, Mr. Reed has rendered a service to the dairy farmers of Michigan which they cannot repay in dollars and cents. His greatest ambition, it seems, is the solution of the economic problems confronting the dairy industry of the state, and the progress that has been made by the organized producers in securing higher prices for their product and better understanding of their rights by the consumers has been not a little due to the efforts of Mr. Reed.

Much more might be said about Mr. Reed and the motherly woman who presides over his household, but we are obliged to respect the quiet modesty that characterizes the man, and leave further eulogiums for the future. Suffice to say that Mr. Reed and his co-workers of the Michigan Milk Producers' Ass'n are doing a work today which will live in the annals of the state's agricultural history. For this, if nothing more, they deserve the highest thanks and praise of every farmer in the state.

Pompous Lady—"Must I put this stamp on myself?"

Postoffice Clerk—"Well, you can if you like, but it's usual to put it on the letter."

"Aren't you the same man I gave the mince pie to?" said the Kansas housewife sharply.

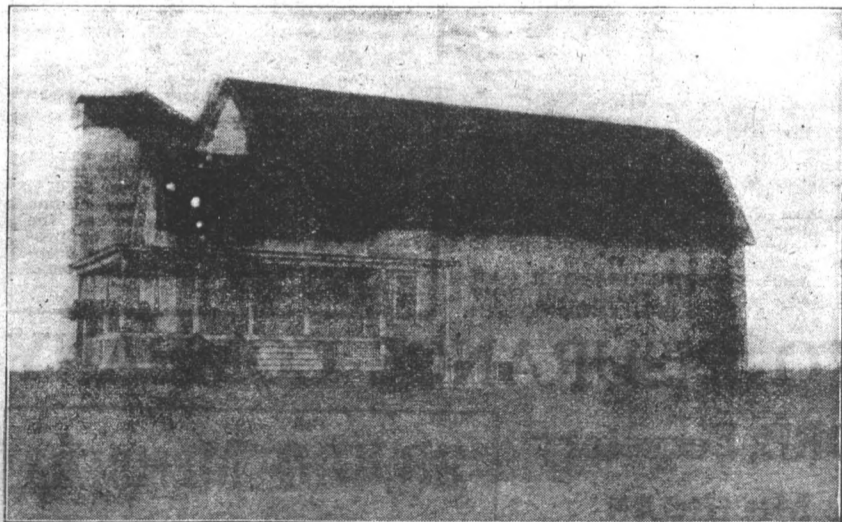
"No, ma'am, I'm not, and wot's more, the doctor says I never will be," answered the weary one.

Kid—"How did you get the red marks on your nose, Uncle?"

Uncle—"Glasses, my boy."

Kid—"Glasses of what?"

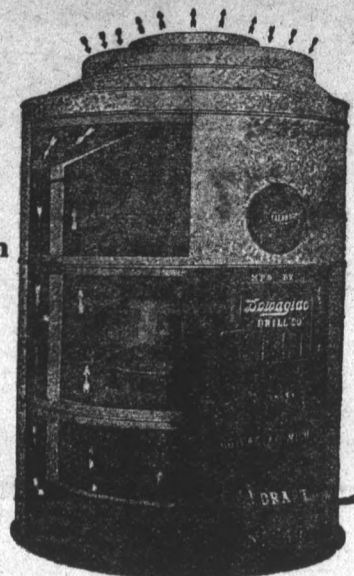
Mrs. Alfred Boulee, of Fountain, has kept a complete record of receipts and expenditures for her flock of 98 hens for a year and finds that her net profits amount to \$98. Two dozen of the hens were kept for the purpose of raising chickens and she raised 130 chickens in addition to the original flock.



Neat and Attractive Farm Buildings Typify the Prosperous Appearance of Mr. Reed's "Rebuilt" Farm.

DOWAGIAC DRILL COMPANY FURNACE

Hot Air;
One Register;
Pipeless;
Body made of heavy Cast Iron throughout;
Casings are made of 26 and 24 gauge Galvanized Sheet Iron.



Well Made;
Closely Fitted;
Easy to Install;
Easy to Operate;
A fuel Saver and a heat Maker.

Part of Casing cut Away to Show Circulation

You cannot go wrong if you submit to us a pencil sketch of the rooms you wish to heat. We will tell you honestly and frankly if we do or do not think a one register furnace will do the work. We do not claim that a one register furnace will heat anything and everything, but we do claim, because we know, that it will heat satisfactorily the great majority of houses, and if your house is one that can be heated by our one register furnace you can save money in the first cost. You can save money in its installation. You can save money in its operation. If we have no selling agent in your vicinity we have an interesting proposition to submit. Write for full information.

160 South Front St. DOWAGIAC DRILL CO., Dowagiac, Michigan

NORTHEASTERN MICHIGAN GOOD LAND, LOW PRICE. "The Last Good Land at a Low Price" FOR INFORMATION ADDRESS: **N. E. MICH. BUREAU BAY CITY, MICHIGAN**



Xavier Barnhart of Riley raised 16 lambs for R. C. Parson of Grand Ledge this season, the latter paying him \$15 per hundred weight for his trouble. Seven of the number averaged 121 pounds each.

Robert Draper of Almont has 11 1-2 acres of cabbage he contracted with the Almont canning factory. Many of the heads are 12 inches in diameter now with a month yet to grow. He cut one that weighed 7 lbs. He has 76,500 heads and contracted them for \$5 per ton.

The first shipment of cattle by the North Branch Co-operative Company which was recently organized, was made last week. Satisfactory returns were made to the shippers. Shipments of cattle, sheep and hogs will be made every week or two now.

Supervisor Charles A. Jones of La-Grange township, near Niles, recently sold a bunch of 82 hogs, averaging around 200 pounds each. He sold them in Chicago and received for them 18 1-2 cents a pound, or a total of \$2,900. This will be one of the record sales for any one farmer to make this year in Cass County. Mr. Jones has over 4,000 bushels of wheat on hand to sell, when the price suits him and will have a big corn crop if the weather proves favorable from now until October 1.

Fred Smith, a Burnside township farmer says: "Prices for everything are all out of reason, but I remember when all commodities were just as unreasonably low. I once sold a man twenty bushels of potatoes and charged him seven cents per bushel and he kicked like a steer—said he could get them for five cents any place."

W. K. Miller of Almena, recently unloaded a car of 20,000 cans to be used in canning the crop of tomatoes which he is growing. Mr. Miller has been doing home canning for several years. Mr. Miller contracted his tomatoes early in the spring. He says he has no trouble in selling farm products this season.

As a result of a petition signed by 500 workmen and presented to Prosecuting Attorney Green the "Milk Trust" of Sault Ste. Marie, is to be investigated by a grand jury. The Milkmen's association here advertised that its members have agreed to advance the price of milk from 10 cents a quart to 12 1-2 cents or from 5 to 7 cents a pint, giving the high cost of feed as the reason.

The Co-operative Creamery, which has been in existence at Coopersville for about a quarter of a century, ceases its existence. It will be operated hereafter by the Coopersville Condensed Milk Company, a \$400,000 corporation which is making extensive improvements.

W. D. Jones, county agricultural agent for Cass county, has brought into that county 225 bushels of Red Rock wheat for fall seeding.

The farmers in the vicinity of Tekonsha not only do co-operative shipping of farm products of all kinds, but also conduct a co-operative retail store for the sale of merchandise.

E. Kunzman & Son of Barryton sold a span of nice two-year-old colts last week to Floyd Johnson. The price, too, was just as good as the colts as Mr. Johnson handed over \$325 in exchange for them. The colts had been thoroly broken.

An extensive addition has been built to the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator at Alto. The growth of its business since its organization made it imperative that its grain capacity be enlarged to care for bumper grain crops now being threshed about Alto.

Secretary C. H. Kiplinger of the Square Deal Co-operative Association at Charlotte, made the following statement thru a local newspaper last week that is applicable to any community where farmers are not marketing their live stock co-operatively: "A farmer living near Battle Creek sold five fat hogs weighing about 280 pounds each to a buyer on August 28th for \$13.25 per hundred weight. This is \$3.08 a hundredweight less than hogs shipped with the Square Deal Company the same week netted. A co-operative association in this man's locality would have saved him \$43.12 on five hogs. Deals of this kind are what cause the farmers to organize."

The Sixty-fifth Congress recently passed a harbor and river bill in which an appropriation of \$100,000 was made for improvements to Harbor Beach harbor. The proposed improvements will greatly augment the farmers' shipping facilities in this district. The appropriation will be spent in closing the north entrance and dredging two hundred acres of the harbor to the depth of 23 feet. The area in the harbor at present having a depth of 19 feet is a little over 72 acres.

28,400 Policies
Issued Sept. 1, '17



\$65,000
Cash in Bank



NO FARMER CAN AFFORD TO DRIVE AN AUTOMOBILE WITHOUT LIABILITY INSURANCE!

EVERY day one reads in the papers of automobile accidents. Some day it will happen to you. A child runs out from behind a wagon—too quick for you to dodge or put on your brakes—you push back to pick up the little body, perhaps only a leg is broken—perhaps worse, of course you must pay for the doctor and hospital bills and your liability is still more, \$5000 has been awarded the widow of a man killed by an automobile, right here in Michigan!



Can you afford a risk like that? A risk that might take every dollar of your savings and mortgage your farm.

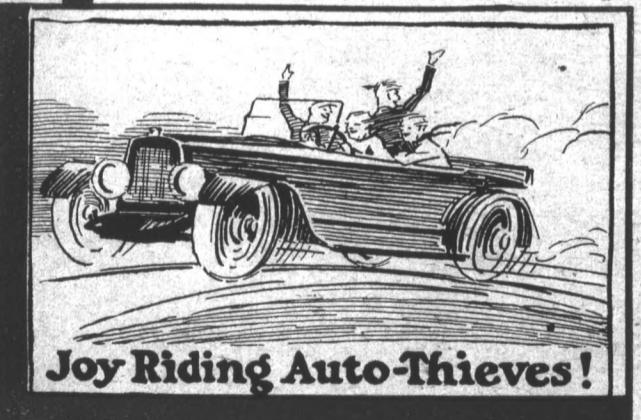
Every day one reads of automobile fires, on the road, in transit or in a public or private garage or barn. Is your machine protected or if it were burned to-day would you have to give up the profit and pleasure you will get from it the coming summer and fall?

Every day one reads of automobile thieves and "joy-riders." Not only are the cities infested with these parasites, but the small towns and even the farmers are being molested. Some cars never return, others are found days, weeks or months after damaged, sometimes completely wrecked.

WHY RUN THESE RISKS WHEN OUR MUTUAL INSURANCE PROTECTS?

At a small cost, we have provided for Michigan automobile owners living outside the cities of Detroit and Grand Rapids a complete policy which protects against Fire, Theft and Liability.

28400 owners, like yourself, have banded together for their mutual protection—our assets have increased to \$65000 and to-day over 400 agents in Michigan alone are ready to answer your call.



YOU KNOW THE MEN BEHIND THIS COMPANY

All are substantial business men and business farmers, who are responsible for the successful conduct of this company during the three years of operation. All claims are met promptly, we have already paid over two hundred and ninety.

You can figure How Low the Cost would be on Your Car

Think of this protection, fire, theft and liability for 25 cents per horse power plus One Dollar for the policy. No farmer in Michigan is rich enough to drive an automobile and assume the risks which we are willing to take for him at this small cost.

The Important Thing Is—DON'T PUT IT OFF!

Everyday our agents write of men who have "put off getting insurance" just a day too long, we can't help you after the accident happens, unless you are protected by our policy. Somewhere near you is a man who represents our company, he is anxious to get your car protected—if you know who our agent is, get in touch with him right away! Don't put it off and be sorry for years to come.

TELL US THE NAME AND NUMBER OF YOUR CAR ON A POSTAL CARD TODAY—LET US TELL YOU HOW LITTLE CITIZEN'S MUTUAL AUTO INSURANCE COSTS!

ASSESSMENTS

The success of a mutual company depends upon the promptness with which its members pay their assessments. Each member who joins signs an application that he will be governed by the by-laws and Charter and pay all just assessments.

The first assessment levied by this Company was in January, 1917, within sixty days of time notices were sent out about \$60,000 was collected thru the mail. This response indicated the willingness of each member to perform his obligations, and an appreciation of the low cost of insurance.

This assessment has also provided a reasonable reserve of \$65,000 and with new business coming in of five hundred new members per week, the Company is enabled to pay many claims each month and has sufficient funds in sight to anticipate the needs of the year.

CANCELLATION

Members may withdraw at any time by sending in their policy to the Secretary, properly signed on the back and paying the amount due at the time.

If the policy is sent before the assessment is levied, no charge is made; after the assessment is levied, it is the duty of each member to pay his assessment before cancellation.

The Company also reserves the right to cancel a member, but after a loss has been presented, it is their duty to first adjust the loss before cancellation. The above rule protects the member as well as the Company, and is fair to all.

POLICY COVERS

Fire, Theft, and Liability in excess of \$25 up to \$1,000, and liability insurance in excess of \$25 up to \$5,000. By liability is meant damage claims presented against the owner of the car either for personal injury or property damage; it does not mean damage to your own car or to the people riding in the car.

CITIZENS' MUTUAL AUTO INSURANCE COMPANY

OFFICERS

EDWIN FARMER	President
F. E. FRENCH	Vice-President
R. B. WALKER	Vice-President
S. R. KETCHUM	Vice-President
Wm. E. ROBB	Sec'y and Treas.

WM. E. ROBB, Secretary
HOWELL, MICHIGAN

28,400 MEMBERS